

# 2023 Klickitat and Skamania County Joint Accessible Voting Plan



Klickitat and Skamania County Joint Accessible Voting Advisory Committee

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Klickitat and Skamania Counties have joined together pursuant to RCW 29A.04.223 (Attachment A) to create a Joint Accessible Voting Plan to improve accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities.

## 1. Number of Voting Centers in Klickitat and Skamania Counties

The Auditor’s Office will be maintained as voting centers in both Klickitat and Skamania Counties to ensure that people with disabilities have reasonable access of an Accessible Voting Unit (AVU). An AVU will be available at the voting centers for 18 days prior to each election.

<b>Klickitat County</b>	
Hours of Operation (M-F)	8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Extended Hours on Election Day	8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
<b>Skamania County</b>	
Hours of Operation (M-Th)	7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Extended Hours on Election Day	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Candidate Filing Week (Friday)	7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## 2. How the number of Voting Centers was determined

Klickitat and Skamania Counties have determined that the optimal availability to the AVU would be achieved by placing the AVU in the Klickitat and Skamania County Courthouses for 18 days prior to each election. These locations are accessible and have full time staffing without incurring undue administrative or financial burden and will allow us to determine if additional access is necessary and to what extent it is necessary.

## 3. Locations

### a. Klickitat County

#### **Voting Center**

Klickitat County Auditor’s Office  
 205 S. Columbus Ave. Room 203–Main (Upper) Floor  
 Goldendale, WA 98620

The Auditor’s Office is ADA accessible from the handicap parking on the east side of the building, traveling up the accessibility ramp on the north side of building, entering the building using the automatic doors, riding the elevator to the main floor, and traveling south down the hall to Room 203.

## **Drop Box Locations**

- **Bickleton**  
Alder Creek Grange Parking Lot  
304 E. Market St.  
Bickleton, WA 99322#
  
- **Bingen**  
City Hall  
112 N. Ash St.  
Bingen, WA 98605
  
- **Centerville**  
Centerville Grange Parking Lot  
2288 Centerville Hwy  
Centerville, WA 98613
  
- **Dallesport**  
Community Center Parking Lot  
136 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Dallesport, WA 98617
  
- **Glenwood**  
North of the General Store  
209 E. Main  
Glenwood, WA 98619
  
- **Goldendale**
  - Inside the Auditor's Office  
Klickitat County Courthouse (Upper) Floor  
205 S. Columbus Ave., Room 203  
Goldendale, WA 98620
  
  - Corner of S. Columbus Ave. & W. Court St.  
Goldendale, WA 98620
  
- **Klickitat**  
Depot Park  
State Hwy. 142  
Klickitat, WA 98628
  
- **Lyle**  
Lions Club Parking Lot  
503 Lewis and Clark Hwy  
Lyle, WA 98635

- **Roosevelt**  
Roosevelt School Parking Lot  
615 Chinook Ave.  
Roosevelt, WA 99356
- **Trout Lake**  
East of Post Office  
Intersection of Jennings Rd. and Hwy 141  
Trout Lake, WA 98650
- **White Salmon**  
Pioneer Center Parking Lot  
501 N.E. Washington St.  
White Salmon, WA 98672
- **Wishram**  
Park Place (north of Historic Locomotive)  
Wishram, WA 98673

**b. Skamania County**

**Voting Center**

Skamania County Auditor's Office  
North Side Entrance  
240 NW Vancouver Ave., Room 27  
Stevenson, WA 98648|

The Auditor's Office is ADA accessible from the main parking lot on the north side of the Courthouse building. There are handicap parking spots near the front entrance of the building with a ramp area in front of the automatic doors. Once inside the Courthouse the Auditor's office is on the same floor down the left hallway in Room 27.

**Drop Box Locations**

- **Carson**  
Carson Transit Station  
11 Carson Frontage Rd  
Carson, WA 98610
- **North Bonneville**  
Near City Hall  
210 CBD Mall Drive  
North Bonneville, WA 98639

- **Stabler**  
Little Church of the Valley Parking Lot  
342 Hemlock Rd  
Carson (Stabler), WA 98610
- **Underwood**  
Underwood Community Center Parking Lot  
951 Schoolhouse Rd  
Underwood, WA 98651
- **Washougal**  
Canyon Creek Middle School Parking Lot  
9731 Washougal River Rd  
Washougal, WA 98671

#### **4. Community Outreach**

Every election Klickitat and Skamania Counties publish a legal notice in both county newspapers of record, and post the information on their websites and bulletin boards regarding the availability of the AVU's.

#### **5. Transportation of Voting Devices**

No transportation is available at this time. To use the AVU a voter must travel to a voting center.

#### **6. Implementation of the provisions of Help America Vote Act (HAVA)**

In 2019, the Accessible Voting Advisory Committee helped Klickitat County devise a plan to help accommodate disabled voters. In 2023, Klickitat and Skamania Counties joined forces to expand on the 2019 plan to serve the voters of both counties. The Auditor's Offices are ADA accessible as previously noted above. Election Deputies are there to greet and assist you with voting using the AVU.

With the Committee's assistance, Klickitat and Skamania County Auditor's Offices will continually evaluate the accessibility of voting services for voters with disabilities in our respective counties. Election staff will be trained to assist voters using the AVU with the guidelines set forth by the Secretary of State's Office. Elections Staff will review and discuss the guidelines in the Disability Awareness Section of the Election 101 Training Manual provided by the Office of the Secretary of State every year prior to the Primary (see Attachment B).

#### **7. Annual Meeting**

To be held in October.

## **Attachment A - Laws regarding the Advisory Committee Plan**

RCW 29A.04.223

Vote by mail impacts on voters with disabilities — Mitigation — Advisory committee, plan.

(1) The legislature finds that the elimination of polling places resulting from the transition to vote by mail creates barriers that restrict the ability of many voters with disabilities from achieving the independence and privacy in voting provided by the accessible voting devices required under the help America vote act. Counties must take appropriate steps to mitigate these impacts and to address the obligation to provide voters with disabilities an equal opportunity to vote independently and privately, to the extent that this can be achieved without incurring undue administrative and financial burden.

(2) Each county shall establish and maintain an advisory committee that includes persons with diverse disabilities and persons with expertise in providing accommodations for persons with disabilities. The committee shall assist election officials in developing a plan to identify and implement changes to improve the accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities. The plan shall include recommendations for the following:

(a) The number of voting centers that will be maintained in order to ensure that people with disabilities have reasonable access to accessible voting devices, and a written explanation for how the determination was made;

(b) The locations of ballot drop-off facilities, voting centers, and other election-related functions necessary to maximize accessibility to persons with disabilities;

(c) Outreach to voters with disabilities on the availability of disability accommodation, including in-person disability access voting;

(d) Transportation of voting devices to locations convenient for voters with disabilities in order to ensure reasonable access for voters with disabilities; and

(e) Implementation of the provisions of the help America vote act related to persons with disabilities.

Counties must update the plan at least annually. The election review staff of the secretary of state shall review and evaluate the plan in conformance with the review procedure identified in RCW [29A.04.570](#).

(3) Counties may form a joint advisory committee to develop the plan identified in subsection (2) of this section if no more than one of the participating counties has a population greater than seventy thousand.

## **Attachment B - Interacting with People with Disabilities**

### **Be Respectful**

A person who has a disability is a person -- like anyone else. Treat people with the same respect and consideration.

### **Meeting Someone**

Try to avoid actions and words that suggest the person should be treated differently. People who use wheelchairs may have a variety of different disabilities. When you meet someone, extend your hand to shake if that is what you normally do. A person who cannot shake hands will let you know. If you are meeting a blind person, identify yourself. Use a normal tone of voice. Do not raise your voice unless requested.

### **Helping**

Do not automatically give assistance. Ask first if the person wants help. Offer assistance quietly and tactfully, but do not overdo it or insist on helping. Respect the person's right to reject help or to indicate the kind of help needed.

If the offer is accepted, listen to instructions. The person may refuse your offer of assistance or may not wish to discuss their disability.

If you cannot assist in the way that is requested, discuss it with the person. You have a right to set limits on what you can and cannot do. Your relationship with a person with a disability should be, like any other relationship, a reciprocal one.

Appreciate what the person can do. Remember that difficulties the person may be facing may stem more from society's attitudes and barriers than from the disability itself.

### **Communicating**

Talk directly to the person, not to an aide, friend or interpreter. When talking with a person in a wheelchair for more than a few minutes sit down and converse at the same level. Offer to make basic information available in large print, Braille, electronic or audio formats.

Relax. If you do not know what to do or say, allow the person who has a disability to help put you at ease.

Do not assume anything. If you have a question about what to do, how to do it, what language or terminology to use, what assistance to offer, ask the person with the disability. That person should be your first and best resource.

Talk about the disability if it comes up naturally, without prying. Let the person guide you. Be considerate of the extra time a person with a disability may need to say or do things. Let the person set the pace in walking or talking.

Give whole, unhurried attention to the person who has difficulty speaking. Don't talk for the person, but give help when needed. Keep your manner encouraging rather than correcting. When necessary, ask questions that require short answers or a nod or shake of the head.

Don't pretend to understand a person with a speech difference when you do not. Don't be afraid to let the person know that you do not understand. Be patient, not only with the person with the disability but also with yourself.

Speak calmly, slowly, and distinctly to a person with a hearing problem or other difficulty understanding.

Stand in front of the person, speak directly to the person, and use natural gestures to aid communication.

When full understanding is doubtful, try writing notes.

## **Touching**

Do not pat or touch a person with a disability unless there is a good reason (such as shaking hands in greeting or if the person has requested assistance).

Gently touching a deaf person to get their attention is permissible.

Do not touch someone's cane, wheelchair or other device.

## **Environments**

Provide wide & clear paths of travel for people who use wheelchairs or are blind.

Be alert to architectural barriers. Inadequate lighting is difficult for those with sight problems.

Be aware that some people may be sensitive to smoke, perfumes, or any other irritants that may be in the air.

## **Wheelchairs or mobility aides**

Never push a wheelchair without first asking the occupant if you may do so. Do not move wheelchairs, crutches, or other mobility aids out of the reach of the owners.

Do not invade personal space by leaning on a wheelchair. Do not patronize a person in a wheelchair by patting them on the head.

## **Service Animals**

A service animal is NOT required to have any special certification. Federal law protects the civil rights of persons with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals in all public places.



## **Service Animals (continued)**

Do not make noises at the service animal; it may distract the animal from doing its job. Never touch a service animal, or the person it assists, without permission. Do not pet or otherwise distract dog guides. They are working.