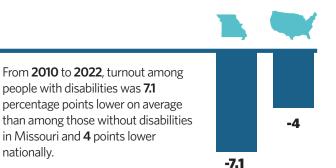


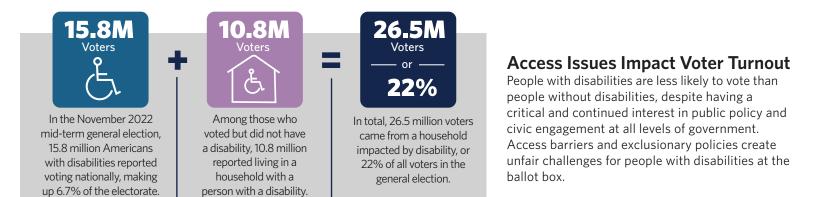
nationally.

# **Enhancing Voting Accessibility in Missouri**



#### **Ongoing Difficulties for Voters with Disabilities**

About one in seven voters with disabilities reported difficulties with voting in 2022. Despite improvements in election accessibility following federal policy changes in the two decades prior, people with disabilities were more than three times as likely as those without disabilities to report difficulties with casting their ballot in 2022, whether voting in person or by mail.



At in-person polling places, people with disabilities were more likely to report challenges with transportation, entering the building if there were steps, reading or seeing the ballot, using the voting equipment, writing on their ballot, and communicating with poll workers or election officials. Long wait times and crowded lines to enter the voting booth were a barrier for people who have difficulty standing for extended periods of time. When voting by mail, issues included difficulties with receiving the ballot, filling it out correctly, and returning it through approved methods.



## Improving Voting Accessibility Helps All Missourians

Disability spans across all races, genders, ages, and identities, thus incorporating a wide variety of lived experiences. People with disabilities make up a significant voting bloc with the power to sway elections, and they deserve equal opportunity to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

#### 326,109 **Missouri Voters With Disabilities**

In Missouri, 326,109 individuals with disabilities reported voting in the 2022 election, making up 7% of the state electorate. While seven percentage points may seem small, elections have been swayed by even smaller margins.



## Strengthening Accessibility with Disability-Led Groups

Disability-led groups and organizations are at the forefront of advancing equitable voting practices. Their insights and advocacy are pivotal in shaping effective policies that make voting accessible. Improvements such as upgrading mail-in ballot tracking systems, revising signature verification requirements, and conducting pre-tests at polling sites are just a few examples of how voting can be transformed.

For more information, including policy recommendations, see our full brief.