

Enhancing Voting Accessibility in Missouri

From **2010 to 2022**, turnout among people with disabilities was **7.1** percentage points lower on average than among those without disabilities in Missouri and **4** points lower nationally.



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.

15.8M

Voters



In the November 2022 mid-term general election, 15.8 million Americans with disabilities reported voting nationally, making up 6.7% of the electorate.



10.8M

Voters



Among those who voted but did not have a disability, 10.8 million reported living in a household with a person with a disability.



26.5M

Voters

or
22%

In total, 26.5 million voters came from a household impacted by disability, or 22% of all voters in the general election.

Access Issues Impact Voter Turnout

People with disabilities are less likely to vote than people without disabilities, despite having a critical and continued interest in public policy and civic engagement at all levels of government. Access barriers and exclusionary policies create unfair challenges for people with disabilities at the ballot box.

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](#).