

Voting Accessibility in Massachusetts: 2024 General Election



Report by
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Polling Place Accessibility Audits: 2024 General Election

Introduction

The Disability Law Center, Inc. (DLC) is Massachusetts' Protection and Advocacy (P & A) agency. As a P&A agency, DLC provides advocacy services to people with disabilities, including voting access. The Protection & Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA) program was established in 2003 as part of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). DLC, under the PAVA program, ensures that voters with disabilities can accessibly participate in the electoral process. DLC identifies accessibility issues at polling sites through monitoring polling places, training others to conduct polling site surveys, and posting online polling site survey forms on its website.

Auditing the accessibility of polling places for compliance with federal and state laws is important for several reasons. People with disabilities are less likely to vote than nondisabled peers¹ and more likely to report difficulties voting.² People with disabilities who vote in-person are more likely to experience difficulties voting than nondisabled peers who vote in-person, as well as people with disabilities who vote by mail.³

While polling places are required to be accessible in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations such as HAVA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state voting accessibility laws and regulations, DLC found that 69% of polling places had at least one accessibility issue that could pose a barrier for voters with disabilities. Research suggests that the accessibility of polling places has improved drastically in the years following the passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002⁴; however, there is a considerable amount of improvement still to be made to ensure that every voter across the country and in Massachusetts can vote accessibly.

Different concerns have also risen among voters with disabilities in recent years. In a recent study by Rutgers University consisting of focus groups of U.S. voters with various disabilities, some voters expressed feeling that voting had become *more* difficult in recent years. Voters attributed the increasing difficulty to several factors: consolidated voting locations/precincts, leading to more crowding; health and safety concerns, partly

¹ Voting Experiences Since HAVA: Perspectives of People with Disabilities: Report to the U.S. Election Assistance Coalition, p. 7. https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/EAC_2024_Rutgers_Report_PDF.pdf

² Voting Experiences Since HAVA: Perspectives of People with Disabilities: Report to the U.S. Election Assistance Coalition, p. 11.

³ Voting Experiences Since HAVA: Perspectives of People with Disabilities: Report to the U.S. Election Assistance Coalition, p. 12.

⁴ Voting Experiences Since HAVA: Perspectives of People with Disabilities: Report to the U.S. Election Assistance Coalition, p. 4.

due to the COVID-19 pandemic; confusing voting instructions or information; ballots having increasingly smaller print; and, not applicable to Massachusetts, increased paperwork requirements of people assisting voters.⁵ While Massachusetts' voting laws are not as restrictive as other states, the accessibility of polling places continues to be an issue – even following the enactment of HAVA.

Polling Place Accessibility & Audits: Collaborators, Training, Support, and Follow-up

Collaborators

In the Fall of 2024, the Disability Law Center organized and conducted **137 polling place accessibility audits** across the Commonwealth. We contracted with eight of the state's Independent Living Centers ("ILCs", also known as Centers for Independent Living = "CILs") to assist with polling place accessibility audits across Massachusetts. DLC staff conducted some polling place accessibility audits, often depending on their geographic location at the time of the General Election. Other collaborators included volunteers at Nelson Mullins Law Firm and the League of Women Voters. It is worth noting that Massachusetts had a total of 1,222 polling places open on Election Day and 469 early voting locations.⁶ This report reflects a sample of Massachusetts voting locations, largely those open on Election Day.

Polling Place Accessibility Audit Trainings Prior to the General Election

DLC's polling place accessibility survey addresses all areas of a polling location, including parking areas, the exterior path of travel, entrances, interiors, and AutoMARK machines/accessible voting booths. While many of our collaborating organizations have had years of experience conducting accessibility audits generally, and polling place accessibility audits specifically, DLC offered multiple training opportunities ahead of the General Election. DLC presented the annual REV UP Massachusetts webinar in October of 2024, covering the basics of conducting a polling place accessibility survey using our long survey form. DLC asked all collaborators and any interested volunteers to view it, as well as the more in-depth polling place accessibility audit training that DLC had recorded in 2023. Both webinar trainings included Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation.

⁵ Voting Experiences Since HAVA: Perspectives of People with Disabilities: Report to the U.S. Election Assistance Coalition, p. 19.

⁶ Election Administration and Voting Survey 2024 Comprehensive Report: Report from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to the 119th Congress. Chapter 1: Overview of Election Administration and Voting, p. 47. https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/2024_EAVS_Report_508c.pdf

In addition to video trainings, DLC distributed survey materials months to several weeks ahead of the election. DLC supported collaborators by making ourselves available to answer questions before and on Election Day. We recommended that surveyors bring a tape measure, digital level if available (optional, but helpful for measuring slope), printed polling place accessibility surveys, pen and paper or a cell phone to take notes, and a cell phone to take photographs of the exteriors of polling locations. We also recommended that auditors conduct surveys with at least one other person or colleague to make the survey process more comfortable and potentially more accurate. We asked that surveyors submit their survey responses using our online survey tool if possible.

Support Provided to Collaborators on Election Day

DLC ran an Election Day Hotline, staffed by a DLC Supervising Attorney. In addition to encouraging voters to use the Hotline to report accessibility barriers at their polling locations, we encouraged collaborators to call the Hotline with any questions or urgent concerns on Election Day.

Follow-Up with Election Officials

DLC asked collaborators at ILCs across the state to follow up with the local election officials in the towns and cities they surveyed. We provided guidance for follow-up (including suggesting brief emails/letters or meetings for towns or cities with more extensive issues). DLC followed up to remedy accessibility issues with polling locations that we and our collaborators surveyed across the state, flagging sites that require further investigation and follow-up, or future accessibility audits (e.g., during municipal or state elections).

Reports from Voters

In addition to organizing formal accessibility surveys of polling locations across Massachusetts, we also asked voters to report their experiences and barriers to voting using our short form online survey and the DLC Election Day Hotline discussed in the previous section. Our DLC Hotline was staffed by one of our Supervising Attorneys, who took calls from voters regarding accessibility complaints and coordinated with municipal election offices to resolve most of the barriers reported.

Our short form survey can be accessed [on DLC's website](#). We advertised our short form survey and distributed the link widely using social media, REV UP Massachusetts and Disability Law Center email lists, and through outreach and training events such as the REV UP MA webinar. We encouraged voters to report their experiences using this form.

Polling Place Compliance Short Form

1. Where is your polling place located and what is it called? City/Town, Street Address, Building Name, etc. *
2. What type of problem did you have at your polling place? Check all that apply:
 - ☐ Lack of accessible parking
 - ☐ Inaccessible entrance
 - ☐ Inside inaccessible
 - ☐ Automark machine broken/not set up
 - ☐ Other
3. Describe the problems you had at your polling place.
4. Were polling place staff able to assist you?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Other
5. Upload any relevant pictures or additional information.
6. Name and Contact Information

We do not include reports from voters in our polling place accessibility findings because most voters who reported issues were reporting the barriers they experienced, instead of conducting formal accessibility surveys. However, these reports are helpful for highlighting the firsthand experiences of voters with disabilities.

Summary of Issues Reported by Voters:

Issues Reported by Greater Boston Voters

Many of the reports we received from voters were in the Greater Boston region. Four voters in the Greater Boston region reported issues with the AutoMARK machine at their polling places to the DLC hotline, including three reporting AutoMARK errors. In all three cases, our Supervising Attorney was able to contact city/town election officials and resolve the issues. However, one voter who was blind reported that it took a total of 1.5 hours for them to cast their vote.

Another Greater Boston voter reported to the DLC hotline that there was a lack of signage directing voters to the accessible entrance in the back of their polling place. Our Supervising Attorney was able to resolve this issue with city election officials, who brought signage to the polling location.

We also received many online short form surveys from voters across the Greater Boston region, including from DLC collaborators and staff regarding the issues they experienced at their polling places. One voter noted that the AutoMARK was not turned on upon arrival; they had to wait over five minutes for the machine to be started, and the resulting printed ballot was messy and difficult to read. Their ballot needed to be hand-counted as it could not be read by the vote tabulator. Another voter reported that most staff did not know what the AutoMARK was. A third voter reported during early voting hours that the AutoMARK jammed when attempting to print their ballot, and it took over 30 minutes to resolve this issue.

Issues Reported by MetroWest Voters

DLC received two online short form surveys from voters in the MetroWest region. One voter reported that while the AutoMARK was set up and privately located at their early polling location, and that while the Town Clerk was knowledgeable about the AutoMARK, most poll workers – who would directly respond to voters' questions and accessibility concerns - did not know what the AutoMARK was.

Another voter reported that their polling place did not have automatic door openers; however, these are not required unless the doors to enter a polling place are too heavy. DLC has flagged this location to measure the weight of the doors for future elections.

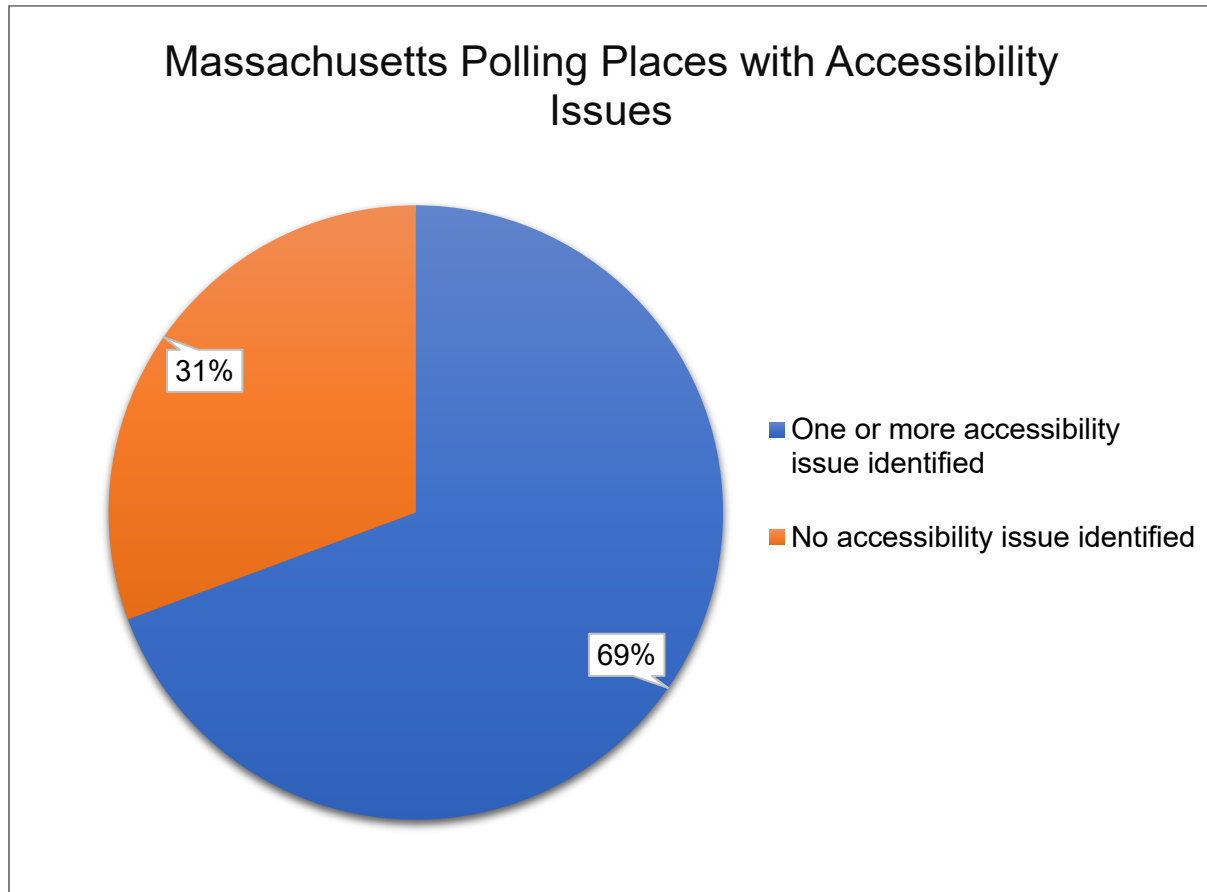
Issues Reported by Pioneer Valley Voters

DLC received two reports from voters in the Pioneer Valley. One voter used the DLC Election Day Hotline to report that the AutoMARK machine was not working, and the warden did not understand how to operate the AutoMARK. Our Supervising Attorney contacted the city clerk, who resolved the issue. DLC has flagged this location and municipality for follow-up.

Another voter used our online short survey form to report several issues at their polling location, including the parking lot surface being rough, the electric door being nonfunctional, the ramp to the entrance lacking compliant railings, and the interior as potentially too small to accommodate mobility device users. DLC has flagged this location and municipality for follow-up.

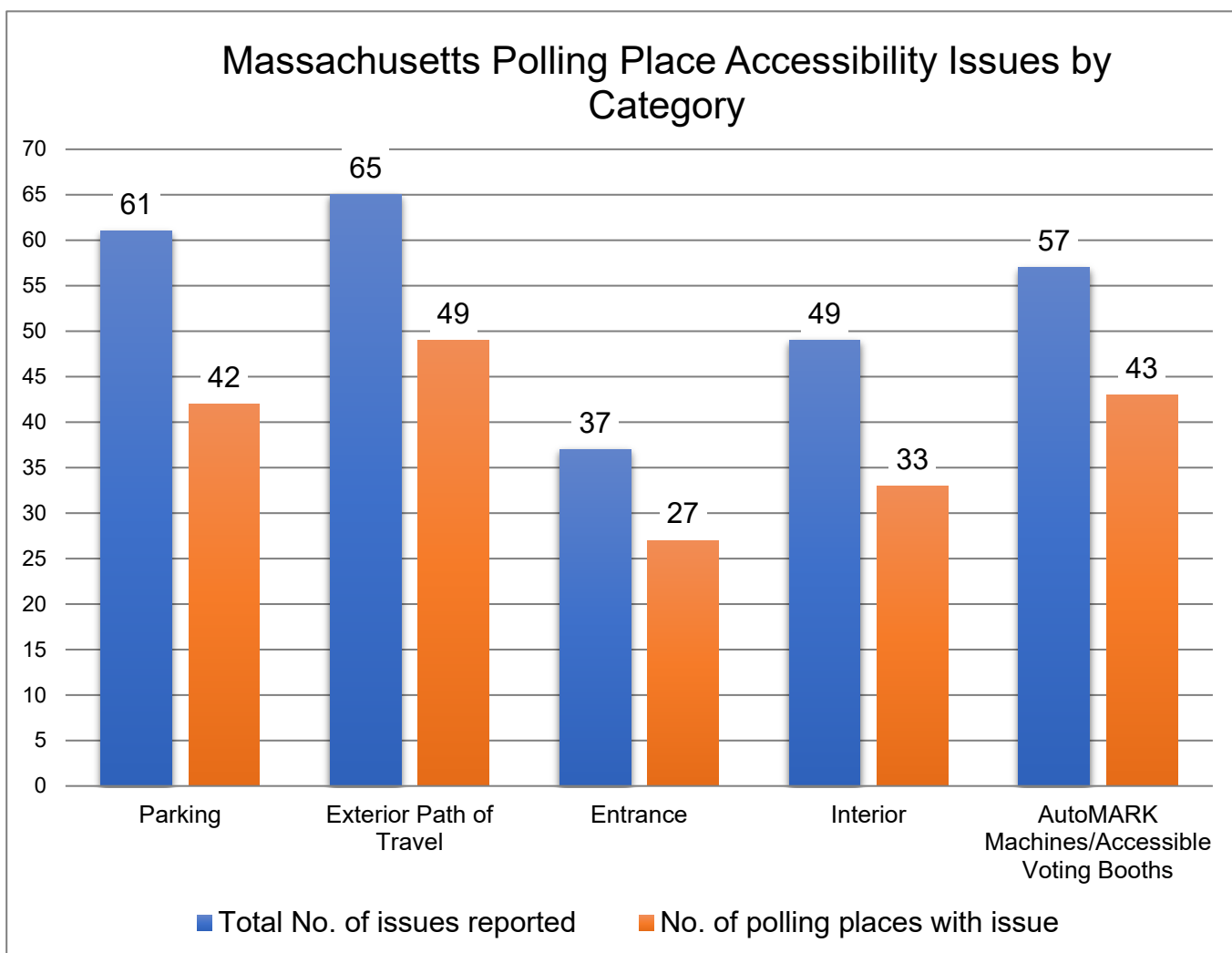
Statewide Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 1: Massachusetts Polling Places with Accessibility Issues



Out of 137 polling places surveyed across the Commonwealth, 95 (69%) polling locations had at least one accessibility barrier reported by surveyors. Polling places across Massachusetts had an average of two accessibility issues reported across each location.

Chart 2: Massachusetts Polling Place Accessibility Issues by Category



36% of polling places surveyed across Massachusetts had exterior path of travel issues.

The most common area of concern for Massachusetts polling places was the exterior path of travel. 49 (36%) of Massachusetts polling places surveyed had at least one issue with the exterior path of travel, and a total of 65 path of travel issues were reported at polling places across the state.

31% of Massachusetts polling places had AutoMARK/accessible voting booth issues.

Another very common area of concern was the AutoMARK machine or accessible voting booth. 43 (31%) of voting locations had at least one issue with the

AutoMARK machine, and a total of 57 AutoMARK/accessible voting booth issues were reported across the state.

31% of Massachusetts polling places had parking issues.

Accessible parking was another large area of concern at polling places across Massachusetts. 42 (31%) of polling sites surveyed across Massachusetts had at least one parking concern cited by surveyors. Surveyors reported a total of 61 parking issues at polling places across the state.

24% of Massachusetts polling places had interior issues.

Problems with the interiors of polling places were reported at 33 (24%) of polling places across the state. A total of 49 issues were reported with the interiors of polling places statewide.

20% of Massachusetts polling places had entrance issues.

The accessible entrance was an area of concern at 27 (20%) of polling places surveyed across Massachusetts, with a total of 37 issues reported with polling place entrances across the state.

Regional Findings

Polling place accessibility surveys were completed across Massachusetts. We separated the regions that surveys were completed in by geographic area: Berkshire County, Cape Cod, Greater Boston, MetroWest, Northeast, Pioneer Valley, Southeast, and Worcester County. These regions also broadly translate to Independent Living Centers' service areas. Findings are presented by region by alphabetical order.

Berkshire County

Polling Places Surveyed in Berkshire County

Data from a total of 21 polling locations in Berkshire County were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

A total of five polling place accessibility audits were completed by two Disability Law Center staff in Berkshire County:

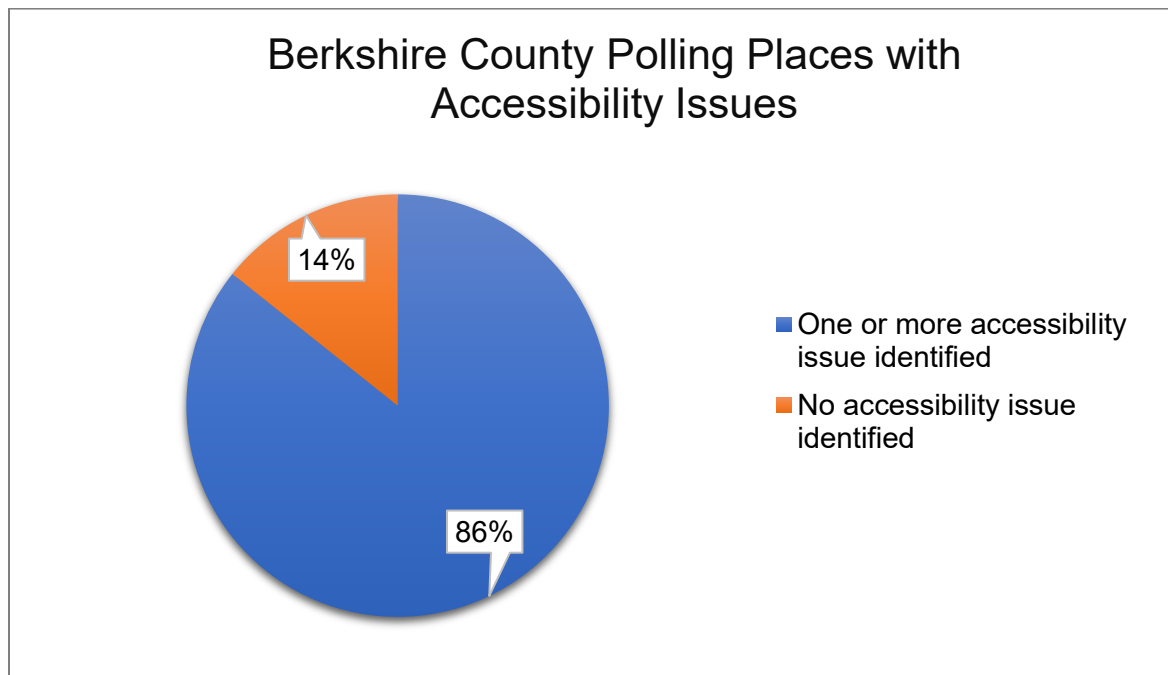
1. Housatonic Community Center: 1064 Main St., Great Barrington
2. Lee Crossway Village: 21 Crossway St., Lee
3. Stockbridge Town Offices: 50 Main St., Stockbridge
4. Tyringham Town Hall: 116 Main Road, Tyringham
5. West Stockbridge Town Hall: 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge

Collaborators at AdLib Center for Independent Living (the Independent Living Center that serves people with disabilities in Berkshire County) conducted a total of 16 polling place surveys at the following locations:

1. Memorial Building: 30 Columbia St., Adams
2. Becket Town Hall/Police Department: 557 Main St., Becket
3. Community House Cafeteria: 191 Church St., Cheshire
4. Clarksburg Senior Center: 712 W. Cross Road, Clarksburg
5. Dalton Senior Center: 40 Field St. Ext., Dalton
6. Hinsdale Town Hall/Police Department: 39 South St., Hinsdale
7. Lanesborough Town Hall: 83 N. Main St., Lanesborough
8. Lenox Town Hall: 6 Walker St., Lenox
9. St. Elizabeth Parish Center: 70 Marshall St., North Adams
10. Peru Community Center: 3 East Main St., Peru
11. Berkshire Athenaeum/Pittsfield Library: 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield
12. Egremont Elementary School: 84 Egremont Ave., Pittsfield
13. Pittsfield Fire Department Engine 2: 9 Somerset Ave., Pittsfield
14. Reid Middle School: 215 North St., Pittsfield
15. Richmond Town Hall: 1751 State Road, Richmond
16. Washington Town Hall: 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington

Berkshire County Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 3: Berkshire County Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

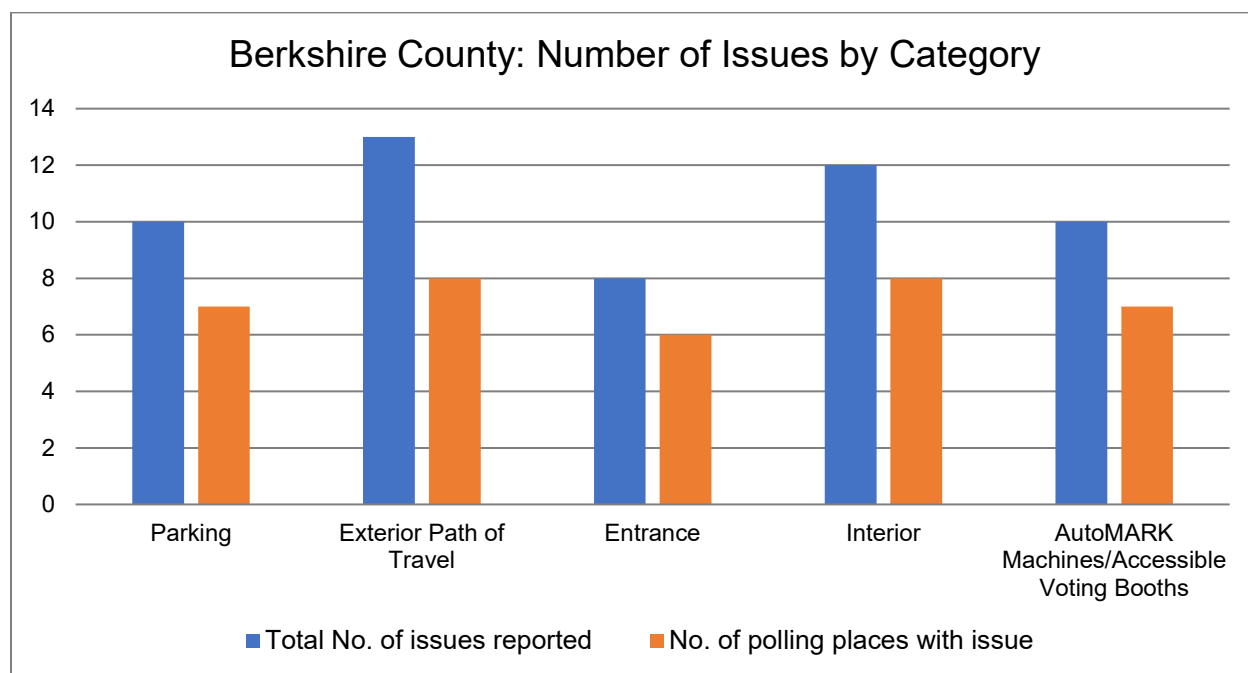


86% of Berkshire County polling places had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 21 polling places surveyed by DLC and our collaborators across Berkshire County, surveyors identified 18 polling places (86%) with at least one accessibility issue. Three polling places (14%) did not have any accessibility issues identified by surveyors.

The polling places with the highest number of issues reported in Berkshire County were the Community House in Cheshire and Reid Elementary School in Pittsfield, where seven separate accessibility issues were identified. Surveyors identified an average of 2.5 issues per polling place in Berkshire County.

Chart 4: Berkshire County: Number of Issues by Category



38% of Berkshire County polling places had exterior path of travel issues.

The most frequently reported area of concern with polling places in Berkshire County was the exterior path of travel, with a total of thirteen issues reported at eight (38%) of the region's polling locations.

The most common problem with the exterior path of travel was that the exterior path of travel lacked a common/continuous surface and was interrupted by changes in level greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (seven polling places). Another common issue was the lack of signage directing voters to the accessible entrance (four polling places).

Other issues included a longer path of travel to the accessible entrance than the inaccessible entrance (one location) and a lack of compliant curb cuts leading to the polling location (one polling place).

38% of Berkshire County polling places had interior issues.

Interiors of polling locations were also a common area of concern, with a total of twelve issues reported at eight (38%) of Berkshire County polling places.

The most common issue was that sample ballots and voting information were not posted accessibly in the polling place (six polling places). Another frequent problem was that the voting line was arranged in a way that created a potential barrier for voters with disabilities, particularly mobility device users (five polling places).

At one polling place, the voting area was located further from the accessible entrance than the inaccessible entrance, creating a longer interior path of travel for voters with disabilities.

43% of Berkshire County polling places had an issue with the AutoMARK or accessible voting booths.

Another frequently reported problem was with the AutoMARK machines or accessible marking booths for paper ballots. Ten issues were reported at nine (43%) polling places.

Overwhelmingly, the lack of privacy of AutoMARK machines was the most common issue reported (eight polling places). One polling location lacked accessible booths for marking paper ballots. Another polling place lacked a pair of headphones at the AutoMARK machine.

33% of Berkshire County polling places had parking issues.

Parking was another common area of concern in Berkshire County. A total of ten issues were reported at seven (33%) polling places.

The most common parking issue was that the accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly. Surveyors reported that the accessible parking spaces and access aisles lacked clear painted lines (four polling places). At two polling places, parking spaces lacked compliant above-ground signage.

Two polling places lacked a sufficient number of accessible parking spaces, with one polling place having no accessible parking reserved for disabled voters.

One polling place had curb cuts that appeared too steep to the surveyor. Another polling place provided street parking spaces closest to the accessible entrance, but none were marked as accessible for voting day.

29% of Berkshire County polling places had entrance-related issues.

The least commonly reported issue was with the accessible entrance, with a total of eight issues at six (29%) polling places. Most commonly, the threshold to the accessible entrance was too high (three polling places).

Other less common issues included the accessible entrance lacking accessible hardware, the accessible entrance being locked, the entrance being partly obstructed by furniture holding the door open, the automatic door not functioning upon the surveyor's arrival, and the automatic door opener button feeling loose/requiring some force to press.

Table 1: Berkshire County: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Adams Memorial Building, Adams	2
Becket Town Hall/Police Department, Becket	6
Cheshire Community House Cafeteria, Cheshire	7
Clarksburg Senior Center, Clarksburg	0
Dalton Senior Center, Dalton	0
Housatonic Community Center, Great Barrington Precinct B	1
Hinsdale Town Hall/Police Department, Hinsdale	3
Lanesborough Town Hall, Lanesborough	4
Lee Crossway Village, Lee	2
Lenox Town Hall, Lenox	1
St. Elizabeth's Parish Center, North Adams	1
Peru Community Center, Peru	0
Berkshire Athenaeum/Pittsfield Library, Pittsfield Wards 5A & 5B	2
Egremont Elementary School, Pittsfield Ward 3B	2
Pittsfield Fire Department Engine 2, Pittsfield Ward 2B	4
Reid Middle School, Pittsfield Wards 1A & 1B	7
Richmond Town Hall, Richmond	1
Stockbridge Town Offices, Stockbridge	1
Tyringham Town Hall, Tyringham	5
Washington Town Hall, Washington	3
West Stockbridge Town Hall, West Stockbridge	1

Table 2: Berkshire County: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Adams Memorial Building, Adams	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel is not a common continuous surface.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. Interior	2.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	2.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
Becket Town Hall/Police Department, Becket	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel is not a common, continuous surface due to cracks/holes in the pavement creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. Parking	2.1 The accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly with high-contrast paint. (See Becket Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
		2.2 The above-ground sign labeling accessible parking spaces appeared bent and too low (less than five feet above the ground). (See Becket Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.2 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Becket Town Hall/Police Department	3. Entrance	3.1 The automatic door opener was not turned on. (See Becket Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3); 521 CMR 26.8.1	3.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than fifteen pounds. Doors with electric door openers should be in working order on election day. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
	4. Interior	4.1 Sample ballots/voting information were posted too high (five feet above the ground).	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	4.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	5. AutoMARK/ Accessible Voting Booths	5.1 The AutoMARK and accessible voting booths were not privately located and lacked privacy shields.	52 U.S.C. §21081	5.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter of turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. Privacy shields should be provided.
Cheshire Community House Cafeteria, Cheshire	1. Parking	1.1 The parking lot had an insufficient number of accessible parking spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(a)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated as accessible.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The accessible entrance was in the back of the building and located further from the parking lot than the main entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.1 The path of travel to the accessible entrance should be the same or a substantially similar distance as the path of travel to the main entrance. If this is not the case, move accessible parking spaces closer to the entrance or create temporary spaces for voting day that are closer to the entrance.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Cheshire Community House Cafeteria		2.2 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance at the back of the building.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.2 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
		2.3 The path of travel was not a common, continuous surface and was interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.3 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	3. Interior	3.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		3.2 Voting information/ sample ballots were not posted accessibly (less than 48 inches above the ground).	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	4. AutoMARK	4.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy screen was available.	52 U.S.C. §21081	4.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Clarksburg Senior Center, Clarksburg	No issues reported	--	--	--
Dalton Senior Center, Dalton	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Housatonic Community Center, Great Barrington Precinct B	1. Entrance	1.1 The threshold to the accessible entrance appears to be too high (over ½ inch above the ground).	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.1 The threshold in the doorway of the accessible entrance should measure no higher than ½ inch above the ground.
Hinsdale Town Hall/Police Department, Hinsdale	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces/access aisles were not marked clearly with high-contrast paint (the paint was very faded).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The automatic door opener is very loose.	ADA Accessibility Guidelines §404.3.5	2.1 Door and gate controls must be compliant as operable parts (operable with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching, twisting of the wrist, or more than five pounds of force).
	3. Interior	3.1 Sample ballots and voting information were posted higher than 48 inches above the ground.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
Lanesborough Town Hall, Lanesborough	1. Interior	1.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		1.2 Sample ballots and voting information were not posted accessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	1.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Lanesborough Town Hall	2. AutoMARK/ Accessible Voting Booths	2.1 Booths for marking paper ballots were not accessible.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(c)	2.1 There should be one shelf/booth that is accessible for voters in wheelchairs to mark paper ballots. The accessible marking shelf should be not less than 30 inches wide, at least 27 inches clear to the underside of the shelf, and not more than 32 inches in height to the top of the shelf. The accessible voting booth must contain privacy barriers on both sides of the shelf.
		2.2 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy screen was available.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.2 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Lee Crossway Village, Lee	1. Entrance	1.1 The path of travel/entrance was partially obstructed by a chair propping the door open. (See Lee Crossway Village Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.1 Doors to the accessible entrances should measure at least 32 inches clear width and be unobstructed.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy screen was available.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Lenox Town Hall, Lenox	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 There is broken cement that creates a large crack/abrupt change in level at the bottom of the ramp. (See Lenox Town Hall Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
St. Elizabeth's Parish Center, North Adams	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and the privacy shield provided was broken.	52 U.S.C. §21081	1.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. The broken privacy shield should be replaced.
Peru Community Center, Peru	No issues reported	--	--	--
Berkshire Athenaeum/ Pittsfield Library, Pittsfield Wards 5A & 5B	1. Parking	1.1 The parking spaces/access aisles were not marked clearly by high-contrast paint.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
		1.2 The curb cuts at the parking spaces appeared to be too steep. (This should be fixed with planned repaving.)	950 CMR 51.02(2)(d)	1.2 If a sidewalk is provided at accessible parking spaces, a curb cut, or sidewalk ramp should be installed at each space or pair of spaces. The slope of the curb cut should not exceed 1:12 or 8.33 percent.
Egremont Elementary School, Pittsfield Ward 3B	1. Interior	1.1 Voting lines were arranged in a way that posed a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Pittsfield Fire Department Engine 2, Pittsfield Ward 2B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The fire station's driveway has a large incline that could be difficult to navigate.	950 CMR 51.02(1), 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route - exterior or interior - has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20 (521 CMR 22.3).
		1.2 There is no crosswalk or curb cut leading from the parking area to the polling place (across the street).	950 CMR 51.02(2), 521 CMR 21.2.1	1.2 The path of travel leading from accessible parking spaces to the polling place should be accessible, including curb cuts/ramps and a common continuous surface uninterrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch. Curb cuts are required wherever an accessible route crosses a curb, at each corner of each intersection, located within the crosswalk, and/or the pedestrian path of travel (521 CMR 21.2.1). Proper curb cuts should be installed at intersections. Alternatively, temporary parking spaces and curb ramps may be put in place.
	2. Parking	2.1 Street parking spaces were available, but none were designated as accessible.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(d)	2.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated as accessible.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. § 21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Reid Middle School, Pittsfield Wards 1A & 1B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 There was no signage directing voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The entrance doors did not have accessible hardware and could not be opened independently with a closed fist.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	2.1 Lever handles or accessible hardware should be provided on doors. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
		2.2 At the entrance to the polling location (the gymnasium), there is about a six-inch step to enter.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	2.2 The accessible entrance should be uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		2.3 The accessible entrance (also the main entrance to the building) was locked.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.3 The accessible entrance should be unlocked and capable of being operated without assistance during the hours the polling place is open and at the same hours as the main entrance.
	3. Interior	3.1 The accessible main entrance is located further from the voting area (the gymnasium) than the inaccessible entrance, creating a longer path of travel for people with disabilities than nondisabled voters.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.1 The accessible route inside the polling place should coincide with the route for the general public. The voting area should be relocated, or the closer inaccessible entrance should be made accessible.
		3.2 Voting lines were arranged in a way that posed a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(c)	3.2 The accessible route should leave 36 inches width and have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Reid Middle School		3.3 Voting information/sample ballots were not posted accessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.3 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
Richmond Town Hall, Richmond	1. Interior	1.1 Sample ballots and voting information were posted inaccessible, higher than 48 inches above the ground and partly obstructed from view by a door.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	1.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
Stockbridge Town Offices, Stockbridge	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy screen was available.	52 U.S.C. §21081	1.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Tyringham Town Hall, Tyringham	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly with high contrast paint. (See Tyringham Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
		1.2 The accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly with above-ground signage (the International Symbol of Accessibility is missing from the above-ground signage). (See Tyringham Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.2 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Tyringham Town Hall	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 There is no accessible path of travel from the poorly marked "accessible parking" space in front of the building to the accessible entrance in the back of the building.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.1 Despite the building's back entrance recently having some upgrades to make it accessible, the path of travel is much longer for people parking at the designated HP spaces in the front of the building, and potentially dangerous for anyone who cannot navigate the lip at the front entrance. To get to the accessible entrance, a voter needs to navigate on the street and down a very steep gravel hill. Either make the front entrance accessible using a beveled threshold or ramp and restripe/clearly mark the accessible parking spaces or place the accessible parking spaces in the back of the building. Ensure that the gravel is packed down tightly if there is not a paved area in the back lot of the building. Place signage directing people to any accessible entrances or parking.
		2.2 No signage directs voters to the accessible entrance at the back of the building.	950 CMR 51.03(3)(a)	2.2 As noted above, there is also no accessible path of travel to the back of the building. Signage in the exterior path of travel should clearly mark the location of the accessible parking/entrance.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The threshold to the front entrance, which is closest to the accessible parking, is one inch above the ground. (See See Tyringham Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	3.1 The accessible entrance should be uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Washington Town Hall, Washington	1. Exterior	1.1 The pavement in the path of travel/back parking lot is very cracked, creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (See Washington Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		1.2 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance or accessible parking. (See Washington Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.2 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Parking	2.1 No accessible parking spaces were provided although the surveyor noted that there is sufficient space near the accessible entrance at the back of the building, and cars were parked near the ramp. (See Washington Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
West Stockbridge Town Hall, West Stockbridge	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The AutoMARK machine lacked a pair of headphones.	52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(3)(A)	1.1 Headphones should be provided at the AutoMARK machine. Without headphones, people who are blind/low vision or need their ballots read aloud may not be able to read or mark their ballots independently.

Photos from Berkshire County Polling Places

Becket Town Hall Photos



Partial view of the Becket Town Hall parking lot at night. There are two accessible spaces with signs posted lower than four feet above ground. The parking lot striping is very faded.



The Becket Town Hall entrance at night. There are two large white doors with lever hardware and bright lights shining above the entrance. There is a push button on the building to the right side of the doors, which the surveyor reported was not functioning at the time of their arrival.

Lee Crossway Village Photos



A chair props the door open leading to a hallway and separate room with a voting area. The chair partially blocks the path of travel leading inside the polling place.



Side view of chair propping a door open to the voting area. The chair partially blocks the path of travel.

Lenox Town Hall Photo



Lenox Town Hall ramp leading to the accessible entrance. There are cracks in the cement at the bottom of the ramp creating abrupt changes in level greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Tyringham Town Hall Photos



Side of the Tyringham Town Hall building. There is a very faint white painted line on the pavement. A blue sign that reads Handicap Parking Only with no International Symbol of Accessibility is posted on the side of the building above the parking space.



Further view of the side of the Tyringham Town Hall and part of the accessible parking area. The pavement has one very faint line marking the accessible parking space. There is a blue sign on the building that reads Handicap Parking Only with no symbol.



The rear exterior entrance to Tyringham Town Hall. There is a cement landing in front of the door. The threshold to enter the door is over 1 inch above the ground.

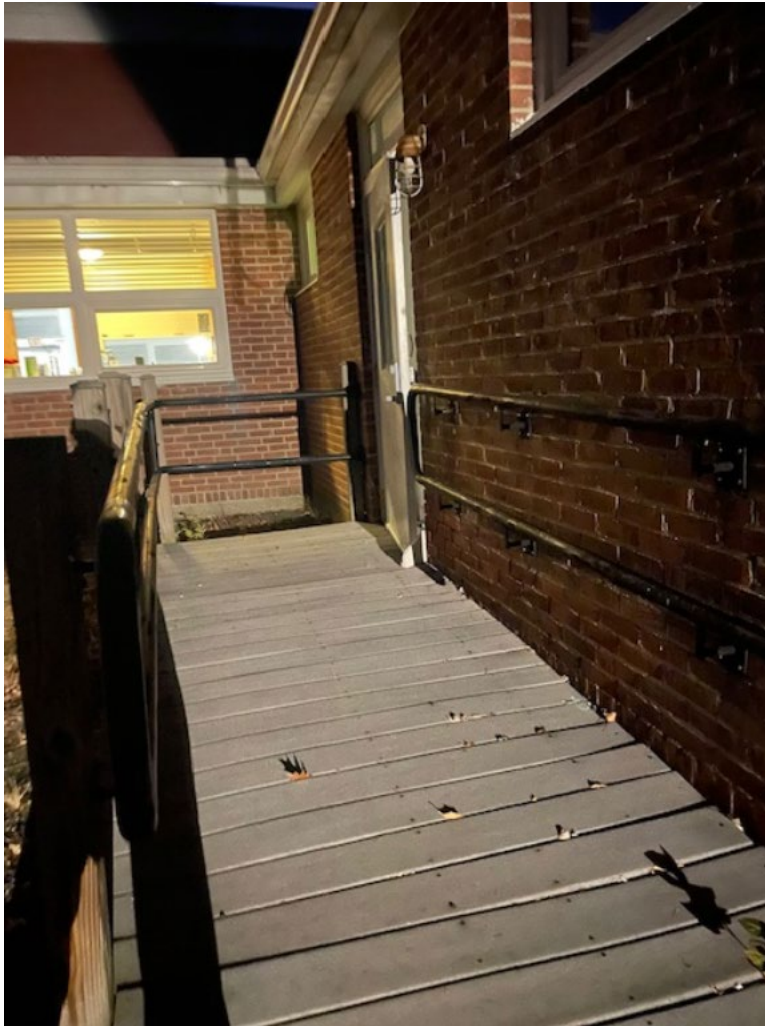


Side view of the exterior entrance to the Tyringham Town Hall. The threshold to enter is over one inch above the ground.



Side of the Tyringham Town Hall and part of the parking lot. The parking lot is partially paved on the perimeter of the building, while the rest of the parking lot is gravel. There are some uneven areas in the parking lot.

Washington Town Hall Photos



Washington Town Hall's ramp leading to the accessible entrance in the evening. The ramp is at the back of the building.



Main entrance to the Washington Town Hall in the evening. There is a blue sign with the international symbol of accessibility reading Access at Rear. There is a cement step and landing leading to the entrance doors.



The path of travel at the back of Washington Town Hall leading to the accessible entrance. The area has broken and patched pavement.



The back of Washington Town Hall during the evening. The area around the building has broken and patched pavement. A sign posted on the building directs voters to the accessible entrance.

Cape Cod

Polling Places Surveyed in Cape Cod

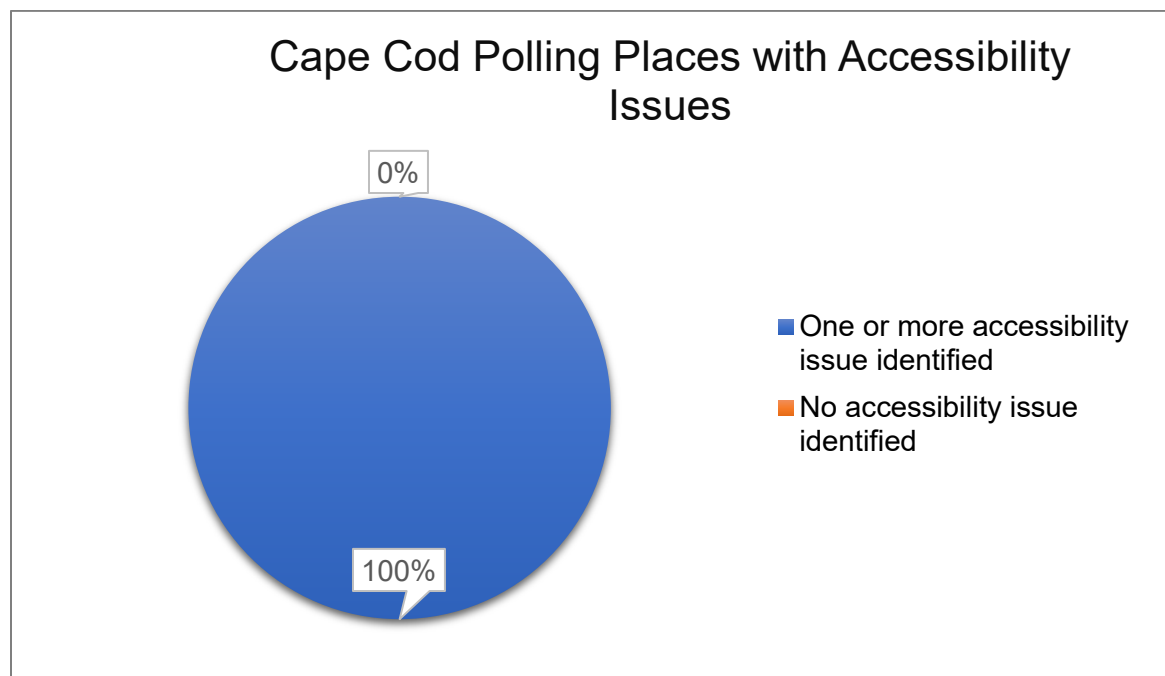
Data from a total of eight polling locations in the Cape Cod region were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators at Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled (CORD) (the Independent Living Center that serves people with disabilities in Cape Cod) conducted a total of eight polling place surveys at the following locations:

1. Christ Chapel Gym: 2-C Oak St., Centerville
2. Dennis Senior Center: 1045 RT 134, Dennis
3. Mashpee Public Library: 64 Steeple St., Mashpee
4. Mashpee Senior Center: 26 Frank E Hicks Drive, Mashpee
5. Mashpee Town Hall: 16 Great Neck Road, Mashpee
6. Center for Active Living: 70 Quaker Meetinghouse Road, Sandwich
7. Corpus Christi Parish Hall: 324 Quaker Meetinghouse Road, Sandwich
8. Yarmouth Senior Center: 528 Forest Road, Yarmouth

Cape Cod Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 5: Cape Cod Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

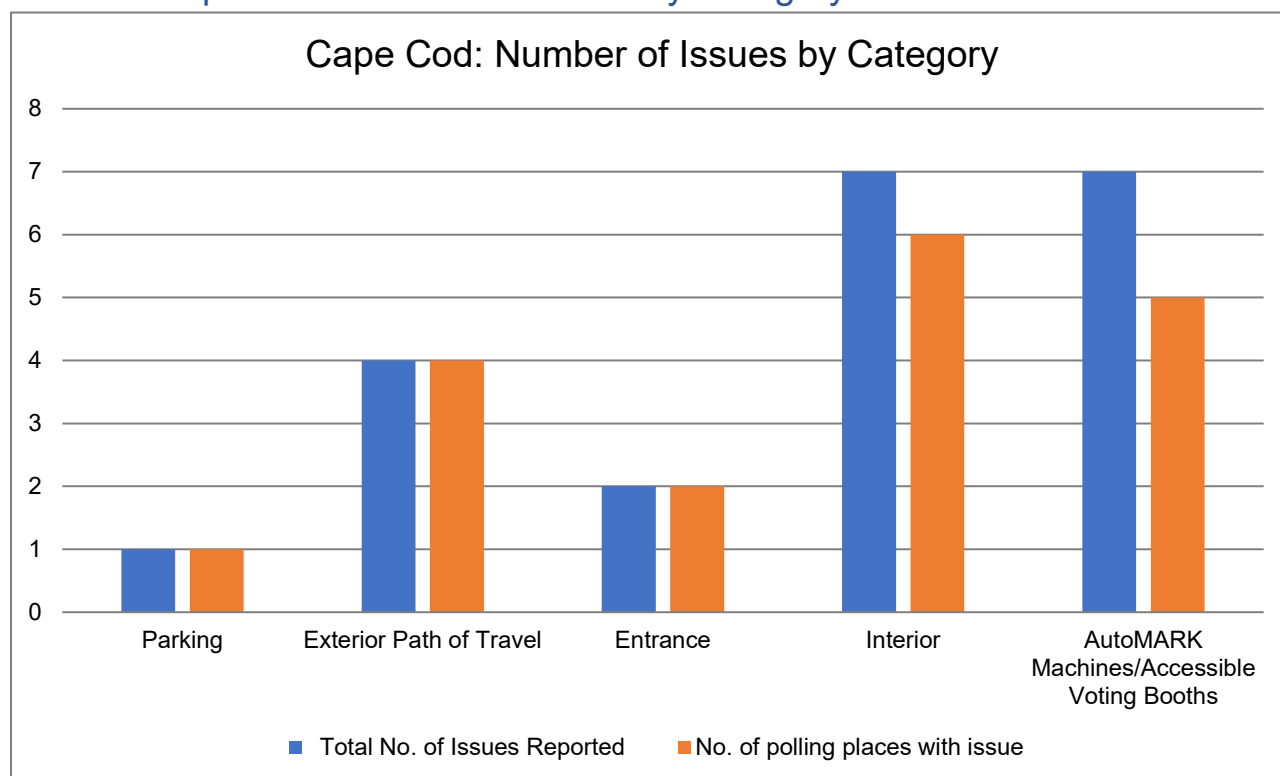


100% of Cape Cod polling locations had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of eight polling places surveyed by CORD across Cape Cod, surveyors identified eight (100%) with at least one accessibility issue.

The polling places with the highest number of issues reported in Cape Cod were the Center for Active Living and Corpus Christi Parish Hall in Sandwich, where four separate accessibility issues were identified. Surveyors identified an average of 2.6 polling place accessibility issues per polling place in Cape Cod.

Chart 6: Cape Cod: Number of Issues by Category



75% of Cape Cod's polling places had interior issues.

The most frequently reported area of concern with polling places in the Cape Cod region was with the interior of polling places, with a total of seven interior issues reported across six (75%) of Cape Cod's polling places.

The most common problem reported with the interior of polling places was that sample ballots and voting information were not posted or not posted accessibly (five polling places) and the voting line created a barrier to voters using mobility devices (two polling places).

63% of Cape Cod's polling places had AutoMARK machine issues.

Issues with AutoMARK machines were also very common, with a total of seven issues reported across five (63%) of the region's polling places.

The most frequently reported issue was that the AutoMARK was not set up accessibly for a voter using a mobility device to fit behind (four polling places). Surveyors also reported instances of the AutoMARK machine lacking privacy (two polling places). At one polling place, the surveyor reported that only the warden knew how to operate the AutoMARK, and other poll workers seemed to be unfamiliar with how to operate the AutoMARK.

50% of Cape Cod's polling places had exterior issues.

The exterior path of travel was another common area of concern at Cape Cod polling places; four issues reported at four (50%) of the region's polling places.

Surveyors reported uneven pavement and changes in level in the exterior path of travel at three polling places. One polling place lacked signage directing voters to the accessible entrance.

25% of Cape Cod's polling places had entrance issues.

Issues with accessible entrances were less common, with two issues reported at two (25%) of the polling places surveyed in Cape Cod.

At one polling place, the electric door opener was not functioning, and the door was too heavy to be opened without it. At another location, the approach to the accessible entrance lacked a level space 60 inches from the door.

12.5% (one) of Cape Cod polling places had parking issues.

Only one polling place in Cape Cod had one issue with parking. At this polling place, the accessible parking spaces were further from the entrance than standard non-accessible parking spaces, creating a longer path of travel for voters with disabilities.

Table 3: Cape Cod: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Christ Chapel Gym, Centerville Precinct 6	1
Dennis Senior Center, Dennis Precinct 2	2
Mashpee Public Library, Mashpee Precinct 5	3
Mashpee Senior Center, Mashpee Precincts 1 & 2	2
Mashpee Town Hall, Mashpee Precincts 3 & 4	3
Center for Active Living, Sandwich Precincts 4, 5, & 6	4
Corpus Christi Parish Hall, Sandwich Precincts 1, 2, & 3	4
Yarmouth Senior Center, Yarmouth Precincts 2 – 6	2

Table 4: Cape Cod: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Christ Chapel Gym, Centerville Precinct 6	1. Entrance	1.1 The approach to the accessible entrance is interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch/there is not a level space 60 inches from the door.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(b)	1.1 The approach to the accessible entrance should be a paved walk or ramp with a non-slip surface uninterrupted by steps or changes in level greater than ½ inch and have a space 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.
Dennis Senior Center, Dennis Precinct 2	1. Interior	1.1 Voting information is not posted accessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	1.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that anyone including wheelchair users can view them.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine is not privately located, and no privacy shields were provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Mashpee Public Library, Mashpee Precinct 5	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces are located further away from the entrance than standard parking spaces, creating a longer path of travel for voters with disabilities.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 521 CMR 23.3	1.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	3. Interior	3.1 Voting information/sample ballots were partially obstructed by the voting line.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Mashpee Senior Center, Mashpee Precincts 1 & 2	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 There is a gap between the pavement and sidewalk, creating an abrupt change in level greater than ½ inch. (See Mashpee Senior Center Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up accessibly (insufficient room for a wheelchair user to fit behind).	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	2.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.
Mashpee Town Hall, Mashpee Precincts 3 & 4	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The parking lot is in disrepair, creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (See Mashpee Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. Interior	2.1 Voting information/sample ballots were posted inaccessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	2.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up accessibly (insufficient room for a wheelchair user to fit behind). The warden offered to move the table that the AutoMARK was on.	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	3.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Center for Active Living, Sandwich Precincts 4, 5, & 6	1. Entrance	1.1 The electric door opener was not working on voting day, and the door is too heavy to open independently with a closed fist.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than fifteen pounds. Doors with electric door openers should be in working order on election day. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
	2. Interior	2.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	2.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up accessibly (insufficient room for a wheelchair user to fit behind).	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	3.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.
		3.2 The AutoMARK lacked privacy, and no privacy screen was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.2 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is a 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Corpus Christi Parish Hall, Sandwich Precincts 1, 2, & 3	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 Walkways leading to the polling place are uneven due to settling and disrepair, leading to changes in level greater than ½ inch. (See Corpus Christi Parish Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Corpus Christi Parish Hall	2. Interior	2.1 Voting information/sample ballots were partially obstructed by a table.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	2.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up accessibly (insufficient space for a wheelchair user to fit behind – only 26 inches between the wall and AutoMARK).	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	3.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.
		3.2 Only the polling place warden knows how to operate the AutoMARK machine.	950 CMR 54.04 (9)	3.2 Election workers, in addition to polling place wardens, should be trained to use the AutoMARK and instruct voters on its use.
Yarmouth Senior Center, Yarmouth Precincts 2 – 6	1. Interior	1.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices.
		1.2 Voting information/sample ballots were posted inaccessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	1.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that anyone, including wheelchair users, can view them.

Photos from Cape Cod Polling Places

Mashpee Senior Center Photos



Gap between sidewalk and pavement at the Mashpee Senior Center.



Gap between sidewalk and pavement at the Mashpee Senior Center.



Gap between sidewalk and pavement at the Mashpee Senior Center.



Gap between sidewalk and pavement at the Mashpee Senior Center.

Mashpee Town Hall Photos



Pavement near the Mashpee Town Hall. There are some cracks and divets in the pavement and areas where the pavement has been patched.



Pavement near the Mashpee Town Hall. There appears to be a slight incline. The pavement has some cracks and patching.

Corpus Christi Parish Hall Photos



Cement sidewalk lined with laid bricks at the Corpus Christi Parish Hall. There is a crack where the slabs of cement meet which is roughly less than a foot long and a few inches wide, greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.



The path of travel at Corpus Christi Parish Hall. There is a relatively flat curb next to the paved parking lot. Bricks line the cement sidewalk. There are cracks deeper than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the cement sidewalk and bricks.



The path of travel to the Corpus Christi Parish Hall. There is a crack in the cement walkway.



The path of travel to the Corpus Christi Parish Hall. The area where four slabs of cement meet has a crack interrupting the path of travel.



A closer view of the bricks lining a cement walkway to Corpus Christi Parish. The edges of the bricks have been broken in some areas.

Greater Boston

Polling Places Surveyed in Greater Boston

Data from a total of 21 polling locations in the Greater Boston region were collected during the General Election cycle.

A total of six polling place accessibility audits were completed by one DLC staff member in the Greater Boston Region:

1. Arlington Town Hall: 730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington
2. Reservoir Church, Cambridge: 170 Rindge Ave., Cambridge
3. Salvation Army, Cambridge: 402 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge
4. Saint Peter's Church, Cambridge: 838 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge
5. Medford Professional Fire Association, Medford: 340 Salem St., Medford
6. Brazilian Presbyterian Church, Somerville: 212 School St., Somerville

Collaborators at Boston Center for Independent Living (the Independent Living Center that serves people with disabilities in Greater Boston) conducted a total of 14 polling place surveys at the following locations:

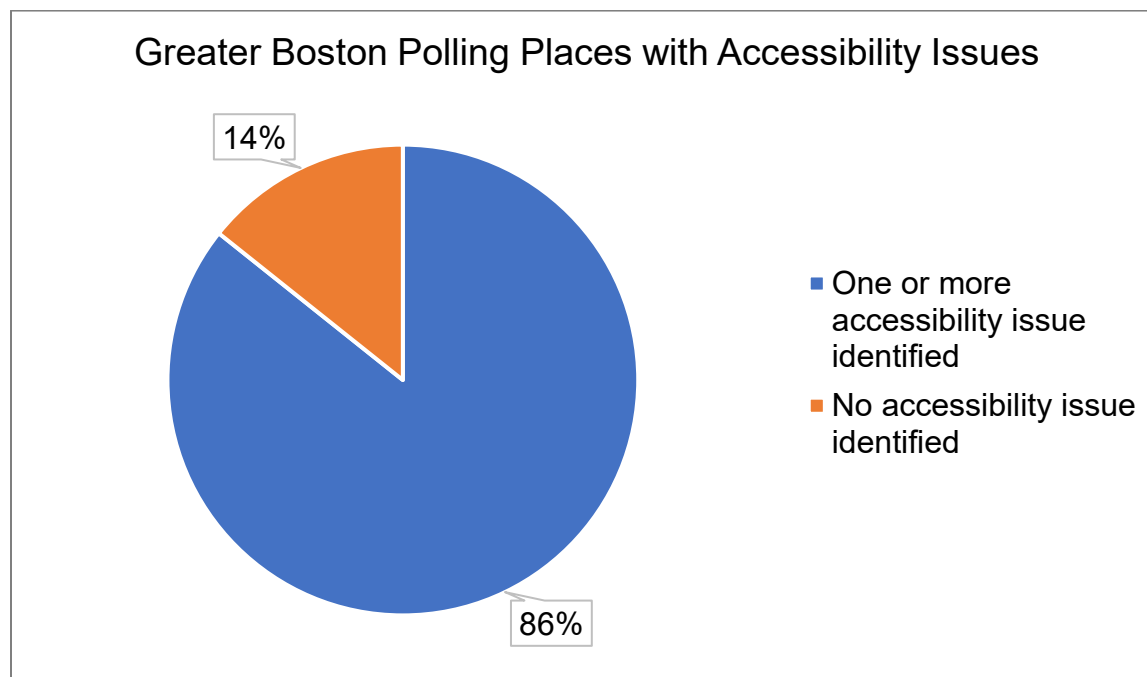
1. Alexander Hamilton School: 198 Strathmore Rd., Boston
2. Boston English High School: 144 McBride St., Boston
3. Brookside Family Life Center: 3297 Washington St., Boston
4. Cathedral High School: 1336 Washington St., Boston
5. Cyclorama: 539 Tremont St., Boston
6. Donald McKay School: 122 Cottage St., Boston
7. East Boston High School: 86 White St., Boston
8. Fenway Center: 77 Saint Stephen St., Boston
9. Saint Cecilia Parish: 18 Belvidere St., Boston
10. Walnut Park Apartments: 1990 Columbus Ave., Boston
11. Wang YMCA of Chinatown: 8 Oak St. West, Boston
12. Washington Apartments: 91-95 Washington St., Boston
13. Wentworth Institute Annex Central Building: 550 Parker St., Boston
14. Word of Life Tabernacle Church: 122 Armory St., Boston

One collaborator at Nelson Mullins Law Firm surveyed one polling place in Boston:

1. Chinese Evangelical Church: 120 Shawmut Ave., Boston

Greater Boston Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 7: Greater Boston Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

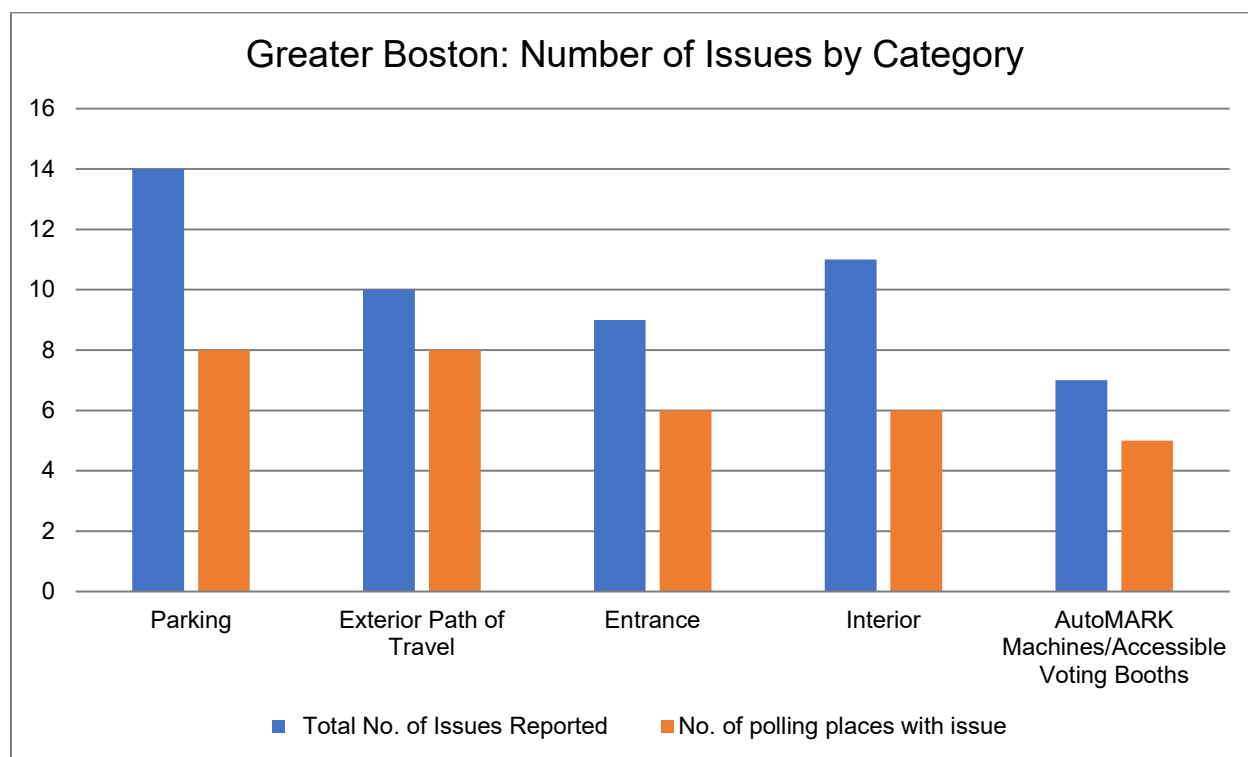


86% of polling places in Greater Boston had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 21 polling places surveyed in the Greater Boston region, surveyors reported accessibility issues at 18 (86%) with at least one accessibility issue. Three polling places (14%) did not have any accessibility issues identified by surveyors.

The polling place with the highest number of issues in Greater Boston was East Boston High School, where seven separate accessibility issues were identified. Surveyors identified an average of 2.4 issues at polling places in the Greater Boston region.

Chart 8: Greater Boston: Number of Issues by Category



38% of Greater Boston's polling places had parking issues.

The most frequently reported area of concern with Greater Boston polling places was parking, with 14 separate issues reported across eight (38%) polling places.

The most frequently reported issue was that there was not enough, or no accessible parking provided for voters with disabilities (four polling places). Another common issue was that accessible parking spaces were located further from the accessible entrance than standard parking spaces, creating a longer path of travel for voters with disabilities (three polling places). The improper marking of accessible parking spaces was also a notable issue, with surveyors reporting that above-ground signage did not properly mark accessible parking spaces (three polling places). Parking spaces also lacked high-contrast paint marking the parking spots and adjacent access aisles (two polling places).

Less commonly, surveyors reported issues with a lack of compliant curb cuts being provided near accessible parking spaces (one polling location) and debris partly obstructing the accessible parking spaces, making it more difficult to locate accessible parking spaces and for voters with mobility disabilities to navigate the parking lot.

29% of Greater Boston's polling places had interior issues.

Issues with the interior of polling places were also frequent, with surveyors reporting 11 issues at six (29%) Greater Boston polling locations.

The most common interior issues reported by surveyors in the Boston area included the voting area being too narrow and voting lines posing a barrier to voters using mobility devices (four polling places) and sample ballots/voting information not being posted accessibly (four polling places).

Other reported issues included the interior path of travel being unequal for voters with disabilities due to the longer distance to the voting area from the accessible entrance (one polling place), no signage directing voters to the accessible path of travel or voting area (one polling place), and insufficient lighting inside (one polling place).

38% of Greater Boston polling places had issues with the exterior paths of travel.

Another common area of concern was the exterior path of travel, with 10 issues reported at eight (38%) polling places in Greater Boston.

Sidewalks or pavement in disrepair often disrupted the exterior path of travel, creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch (five polling places). Surveyors also reported insufficient signage directing voters to the accessible parking areas and entrances (three polling places).

Concerns with exterior ramps were also reported (two polling places), with one polling place having a ramp with insufficient turnaround space and another having a ramp that the surveyor noted as being very long.

29% of Greater Boston polling places had issues with entrances.

Concerns with accessible entrances were reported nine times at six (29%) polling locations.

Surveyors reported that the doorways to the accessible entrances were too narrow at three polling locations, with two narrow doorways being obstructed by signage or an object propping the door open. Surveyors also reported three polling places where there was a step up to the accessible entrance, or the threshold inside the door was too high (greater than ½ inch above the ground).

At two polling locations, the surveyor noted that the door to the accessible entrance felt heavy and recommended propping the doors open. At one polling location, the electric door opener was switched off upon the surveyor's arrival; the surveyor brought the issue to poll workers' attention, who switched on the door opener.

24% of Greater Boston polling places had issues with AutoMARKs.

Seven issues with AutoMARK machines were reported at five (24%) locations.

The most common problem with AutoMARK machines was that they were not privately located, with their screens easily visible from other voters' paths of travel (four polling locations).

Surveyors reported that staff at two polling locations in Boston were unfamiliar with how to operate the AutoMARK. At one polling place, the AutoMARK was not set up accessibly, lacking space for a wheelchair user to fit behind.

Table 5: Greater Boston: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Arlington Town Hall, Arlington Precincts 8 – 10	1
Alexander Hamilton School, Boston Ward 21 Precincts 14 – 16	2
Boston English High School, Boston Ward 11 Precincts 7 & 8	2
Brookside Family Life Center, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 6	2
Cathedral High School Gymnasium, Boston Ward 3 Precincts 7 & 16, Ward 8 Precincts 1 & 2	2
Chinese Evangelical Church, Boston Ward 3 Precinct 15	2
Cyclorama, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 1; Ward 5 Precincts 1, 13, & 14	4
Donald McKay School, Boston Ward 1 Precinct 2	5
East Boston High School, Boston Ward 1 Precincts 6 – 10	7
Fenway Center, Boston Ward 4 Precincts 11 & 12	0
Saint Cecilia Parish, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 6, Ward 5 Precinct 9	2
Walnut Park Apartments, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 5	0
Wang YMCA of Chinatown, Boston Ward 3 Precincts 8 & 14	4
Washington St. Apartments, Boston Ward 21 Precincts 10 & 11	2
Wentworth Institute, Annex Central Building, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 9	6
Word of Life Tabernacle Church, Jamaica Plain, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 4	1
Reservoir Church, Cambridge Ward 11 Precincts 1, 1A, & 2	0
Salvation Army, Cambridge Ward 5 Precinct 1	5
Saint Peter's Church, Cambridge, Ward 4 Precincts 2 & 2A	1
Medford Professional Fire Association, Medford Ward 1 Precinct 2	1
Brazilian Presbyterian Church, Somerville Ward 4 Precinct 3	2

Table 6: Greater Boston: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Arlington Town Hall, Arlington Precincts 8 – 10	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior path of travel is interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (Cracks in pavement) (See Arlington Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02 (1)	1.1 The exterior path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, reasonably lit, and have a continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
Alexander Hamilton School, Boston Ward 21 Precincts 14 – 16	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior path of travel is interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (Cracks in pavement and sidewalk)	950 CMR 51.02 (1)	1.1 The path of travel should be a level surface with no abrupt changes greater than ½ inch.
	2. Interior	2.1 The voting area appeared too narrow for wheelchair users to navigate.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	2.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
Boston English High School, Boston Ward 11 Precincts 7 & 8	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces were not clearly marked with above-ground signage. (See Boston English High School Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words “Van Accessible.”
		1.2 Leaves partially obstructed the exterior path of travel/parking spaces. (See Boston English High School Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.2 The path of travel should be free of debris.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Brookside Family Life Center, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 6	1. Interior	1.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		1.2 Sample ballots/voting information were partially obstructed by a table and posted in the back of the voting area.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, § 65; 950 CMR 53.02(4)	1.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that anyone, including wheelchair users, can view them. Sample ballots, cards of instruction, and abstracts of laws imposing penalties on voters should be posted outside of the guard rail in each polling place.
Cathedral High School Gymnasium, Boston Ward 3 Precincts 7 & 16, Ward 8 Precincts 1 & 2	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces were not clearly marked by above-ground signage.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."
		1.2 The accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly with high-contrast paint.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.2 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
Chinese Evangelical Church, Boston Ward 3 Precinct 15	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior path of travel is interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to a step of one inch to the ramp).	950 CMR 51.02(3)(b)	1.1 The path of travel should be a level surface with no abrupt changes greater than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Chinese Evangelical Church	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Cyclorama, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 1; Ward 5 Precincts 1, 13, & 14	1. Interior	1.1 The path of travel was unequal for voters with disabilities due to the main elevator being broken on election day. (See Cyclorama Boston Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(3); 950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The path of travel to the accessible entrance should be the same or a substantially similar distance as the path of travel to the main entrance. An accessible route should be maintained inside the polling place and coincide with the route for the general public.
		1.2 The hallway leading to the polling location appeared too narrow with insufficient turnaround space. (See Cyclorama Boston Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(5); 950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.2 The accessible route should leave 36 inches clear width and have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space. Entrance doors should have a level space of 60 inches on the interior and exterior sides of the door.
		1.3 Parts of the polling place had insufficient lighting.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.3 The interior and exterior of the polling place should be reasonably lit.
		1.4 At least one precinct in this multi-precinct polling place was missing sample ballots.	Mass. Gen. Laws c. 54, § 65; 950 CMR 53.02 (4)	1.4 Three specimen ballots, "Instruction to Voters" cards, and "Penalties Upon Voter" cards should be posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place but outside the guard rail. Voting information and sample ballots should be posted at a height no greater than 48 inches above the floor and in the accessible path of travel.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Donald McKay School, Boston Ward 1 Precinct 2	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior path of travel was interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to broken pavement/uneven sidewalks). (See Donald McKay School Boston Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be a level surface uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		1.2 There was insufficient signage directing voters to the accessible parking spaces and accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.2 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Parking	2.1 Accessible parking spaces were located further from the accessible entrance than standard parking spaces, creating a longer path of travel for voters with disabilities. (See Donald McKay School Boston Photos)	950 CMR 51.02 (3)(a); 950 CMR 51.02(2)(c); 521 CMR 23.3	2.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
		2.2 The curb cuts are located far from accessible spaces, and one curb cut has a threshold of greater than ½ inch. (See Donald McKay School Boston Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)(d)	2.2 Curb cuts should be provided as close as possible to the accessible entrance and parking spaces. If this is not possible, a temporary curb ramp could be provided on voting day. The slope of curb cuts should not exceed 1:12 or 8.33 percent.
		2.3 Some of the accessible parking spaces are not marked with above ground signage. (See Donald McKay School Boston Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.3 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words “Van Accessible.”

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
East Boston High School, Boston Ward 1 Precincts 6 – 10	1. Parking	1.1 The only accessible (HP) parking spots were in a parking lot farther from the voting entrance than nearby street parking, yet none of the street parking spaces were designated accessible.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 950 CMR 51.02(2)(e); 521 CMR 23.3	1.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
		1.2 The parking lot had insufficient accessible parking (only two accessible parking spaces for approximately 85 total parking spaces).	950 CMR 51.02 (2)	1.2 A parking lot with 85 parking spaces is required to have 4 accessible parking spaces. If the parking lot was striped after 9/1/1996, at least one of these accessible parking spaces should be van accessible.
		1.3 The parking spaces provided were not clearly marked with high contrast paint and lacked access aisles.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.3 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The polling place's entrance is too narrow (less than 32 inches wide) largely due to a makeshift door stopper that obstructs the doorway. (See East Boston High School Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	2.1 Doorways should measure at least 32 inches of clear width and be unobstructed. The door should be propped open with a smaller door stop or hardware.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
East Boston High School	3. Interior	3.1 No sample ballots were posted in the polling place.	Mass. Gen. Laws c. 54, § 65; 950 CMR 53.02(4)	3.1 Three specimen ballots, "Instruction to Voters" cards, and "Penalties Upon Voter" cards should be posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place but outside the guard rail. Voting information and sample ballots should be posted at a height no greater than 48 inches above the floor and in the accessible path of travel.
	4. AutoMARK	4.1 One of the two AutoMARK machines did not have a privacy shield, and both were placed in a high-traffic area lacking privacy.	52 U.S.C. §21081	4.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
		4.2 Polling place staff did not know how to operate the AutoMARK machines.	950 CMR 54.04 (9)	4.2 Poll workers should be familiar with the AutoMARK machine and able to instruct voters on how to use the machine.
Fenway Center, Boston Ward 4 Precincts 11 & 12	No issues reported	--	--	--
Saint Cecilia Parish, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 6, Ward 5 Precinct 9	1. Entrance	1.1 The automatic door opener button was switched off (poll workers fixed this once brought to their attention).	950 CMR 51.02(3); 521 CMR 26.8.1	1.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than fifteen pounds. Doors with electric door openers should be in working order on election day. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
	2. Interior	2.1 Sample ballots were posted higher than 48 inches above the ground (poll workers fixed once brought to their attention).	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	2.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that anyone, including wheelchair users, can view them.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Walnut Park Apartments, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 5	No issues reported	--	--	--
Wang YMCA of Chinatown, Boston Ward 3 Precincts 8 & 14	1. Parking	1.1 No accessible parking spaces were provided.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
		2.2 The ramp leading to the accessible entrance did not have sufficient turnaround space (landings were less than 60 inches). (See Wang YMCA of Chinatown Photos)	521 CMR 24.4	2.2 Ramps should be at least 48 inches wide, with a level landing of at least 60 inches at each section of the ramp. If the ramp changes direction, a level landing of 60 inches x 60 inches should be provided.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Washington St. Apartments, Boston Ward 21 Precincts 10 & 11	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The ramp leading to the accessible entrance was very long (but with a small slope).	U.S. Access Board	1.1 There should be a level landing space of 60 inches at the top and bottom of each ramp section. According to the U.S. Access Board , "Since the usability of ramps decreases with length, considerably long ramp systems should be avoided where possible."

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Washington St. Apartments	2. AutoMARK	2.1 Polling place staff did not know how to operate the AutoMARK machine but directed the surveyor to a printed self-starter guide.	950 CMR 54.04(9)	2.1 Poll workers should be familiar with the AutoMARK machine and able to instruct voters on how to use the machine. A self-starter guide may be helpful to some voters but may be inaccessible to others, particularly voters who are blind or low vision.
Wentworth Institute, Annex Central Building, Boston Ward 4 Precinct 9	1. Parking	1.1 Accessible parking spaces were located in a permit-only parking lot further from street parking spaces (none of which were designated as accessible).	950 CMR 51.02(2)(c); 521 CMR 23.3	1.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters. If no parking lot is available on the polling place premises, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated as accessible.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	3. Interior	3.1 No signage directed voters to the elevator to access the voting area. The surveyor noted that the elevator was difficult to locate.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	3.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance/path of travel, including elevators.
		3.2 The polling room was very narrow, so there was no space for someone using a mobility device to navigate around the voting line.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.2 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Wentworth Institute, Annex Central Building	4. AutoMARK	4.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up accessibly (insufficient room for a wheelchair user to fit behind).	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	4.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.
		4.2 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located.	52 U.S.C. §21081	4.2 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy on the path of travel from other voters.
Word of Life Tabernacle Church, Jamaica Plain, Boston Ward 11 Precinct 4	1. Parking	1.1 No accessible parking spaces were provided (none of the street parking spaces were designated as accessible).	950 CMR 51.02(2)(c)	1.1 If no parking lot is available on the polling place's premises, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
Reservoir Church, Cambridge Ward 11 Precincts 1, 1A, & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Salvation Army, Cambridge Ward 5 Precinct 1	1. Parking	1.1 No accessible parking spaces were provided. A poll worker told DLC staff that voters can park in a rear entrance normally used by employees, but they need to come in to request permission. (See Salvation Army Cambridge Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Salvation Army, Cambridge	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The exterior path of travel was interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to uneven asphalt near the front entrance). (See Salvation Army Cambridge Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.1 The path of travel should have a continuous surface, uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The front entrance door is too narrow (less than 32 inches clear width). (See Salvation Army Cambridge Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	3.1 Doorways should measure at least 32 inches in clear width.
		3.2 The door to the front entrance feels heavy.	521 CMR 26.8.1	3.2 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than 15 pounds. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
		3.3 The rear accessible entrance has a concrete step of greater than ½ inch. (See Salvation Army Cambridge Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	3.3 The approach to the accessible entrance should be uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
Saint Peter's Church, Cambridge Ward 4 Precincts 2 & 2A	1. Entrance	1.1 The entrance door was heavy and in a closed position (the warden propped open once brought to their attention). (See Saint Peter's Church Cambridge Photo)	521 CMR 26.8.1	1.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than 15 pounds. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Medford Professional Fire Association, Medford Ward 1 Precinct 2	1. Entrance	1.1 The metal threshold at the front entrance appeared to be too high, greater than ½ inch. (Warden said they would request a rubber mat to fix the issue). (See Medford Professional Fire Association Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.1 The approach to the accessible entrance should be uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
Brazilian Presbyterian Church, Somerville Ward 4 Precinct 3	1. Entrance	1.1 There was an accessible side entrance with a threshold that appeared too high (over ½ inch). (See Brazilian Presbyterian Church Somerville Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.1 The accessible entrance should be uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		1.2 The door was propped open but partly obstructed by a sign that did not allow for easy passage (less than 32 inches in width). (Warden agreed to prop side door open further). (See Brazilian Presbyterian Church Somerville Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	1.2 The doorways should be at least 32 inches clear width and have a level space of 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.

Photos from Greater Boston Polling Places

Arlington Town Hall Photos



Parking lot leading to the Arlington Town Hall. Cracks and holes in the pavement are greater than ½ inch deep.



Cement walkway leading to Arlington Town Hall. The cement is very cracked and broken in several areas, leading to abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.



The path of travel in front of an accessible parking space access aisle. The pavement in the access aisle has cracks and depressions greater than ½ inch. A sewer grate is directly in front of the access aisle and leads to a cement walkway which has large cracks.

Boston English High School Photo



Several parking spaces in the Boston East English High School. There is a cement wall barrier about three feet tall with International Symbols of Accessibility engraved on a row of parking spaces. The pavement and paint are not visible due to a thick layer of leaves covering the ground.

Cyclorama Boston Photo



An unfinished hallway with floodlights shining in the hallway. A large metal pipe appears to obstruct the path of travel.

Donald McKay School Boston Photos



Sidewalk leading to Donald McKay school, with cars parked along the side of the sidewalk. There are some uneven slabs in the sidewalk. The surveyor's note reads, Path of travel from accessible street parking spot to polling place.



Closeup view of the sidewalk leading to Donald McKay School. There are slabs coming loose and making uneven surfaces in the path of travel. The surveyor's note reads, Path of travel from parking lot to polling place.



Closeup view of the sidewalk leading to Donald McKay School. There are concrete slabs lifting from the ground and making uneven surfaces in the path of travel. The concrete slabs are cracked in several places. The path of travel appears narrow where there is a tree planted to the left and curb to the right. The surveyor's note reads, Path of travel from parking lot to polling place, pic 2.



A crosswalk leads to a sidewalk and curb cut with grey tactile paving in the path of travel to the Donald McKay School. There are cracks in the pavement leading up to the curb cut and raised pavement greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Surveyor's note reads, Official curb cut closest to parking lot. Has a threshold higher than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above ground.



Screenshot closeup of the threshold leading from the parking lot to curb cut using the iPhone measure feature. The measurement shows that there is a threshold of 1.5 inches leading to the curb cut. The surveyor's note reads, "Official" curb cut from parking lot, pic 2. Shows size of threshold.



The front of Donald McKay school, with a section of the parking lot visible in the distance behind the building. There is a curb cut leading to the front of the building from the street. Cement barriers are placed along the perimeter of the building. Surveyor's note: "Unofficial" curb cut closest to the parking lot.



On-street accessible parking space near a four-way intersection in front of Donald McKay School. There is a curb cut where two crosswalks meet to the upper left of the accessible parking space, but no access aisle leading from the parking space to the curb cut.

East Boston High School Photos



Uneven sidewalk in the path of travel to East Boston High School.

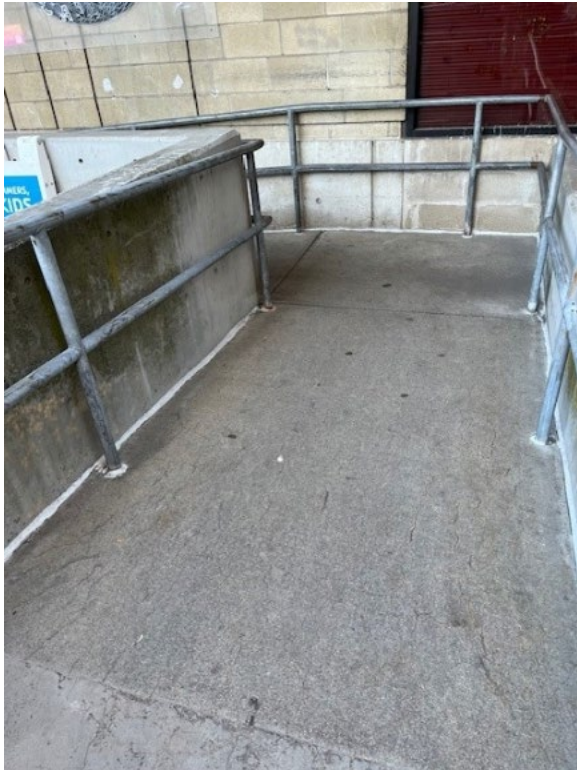


A paved walkway leading to the East Boston High School polling site. There are some cracks and changes in level in the pavement.

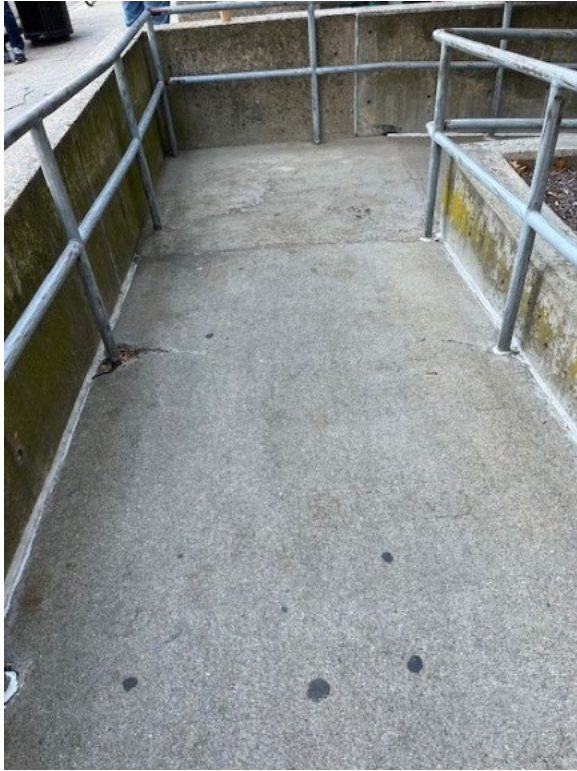


The doorway leading into East Boston High School. The door is held open with a block which partially blocks the doorway. The surveyor noted: Without a door stopper, the opening is already only 30-31 inches in width. With the stopper, the opening is even smaller, making it definitely not compliant.

Wang YMCA of Chinatown Photos



A section of the ramp leading to the Wang YMCA of Chinatown polling place. The ramp has a landing where it changes direction which appears to be too narrow, less than 60 inches wide.



A section of the ramp leading to the Wang YMCA of Chinatown polling place. The ramp has a landing where it changes direction which appears to be too narrow, less than 60 inches wide.

Salvation Army Cambridge Photos



Parking lot behind the Salvation Army in Cambridge. No HP signs or striping are visible.



Parking lot behind the Salvation Army in Cambridge. There are several cars parked along the building and some patched pavement. No HP signs or striping are visible.



Concrete area outside of the entrance to the Salvation Army polling site. The space between the landing and the walkway has been patched unevenly with pavement, lacking a compliant ramp.



A tape measure measures the clear space between the brick wall and entrance door to the Salvation Army polling site. The tape measure shows that there is a space between the wall and door measuring 32 inches.



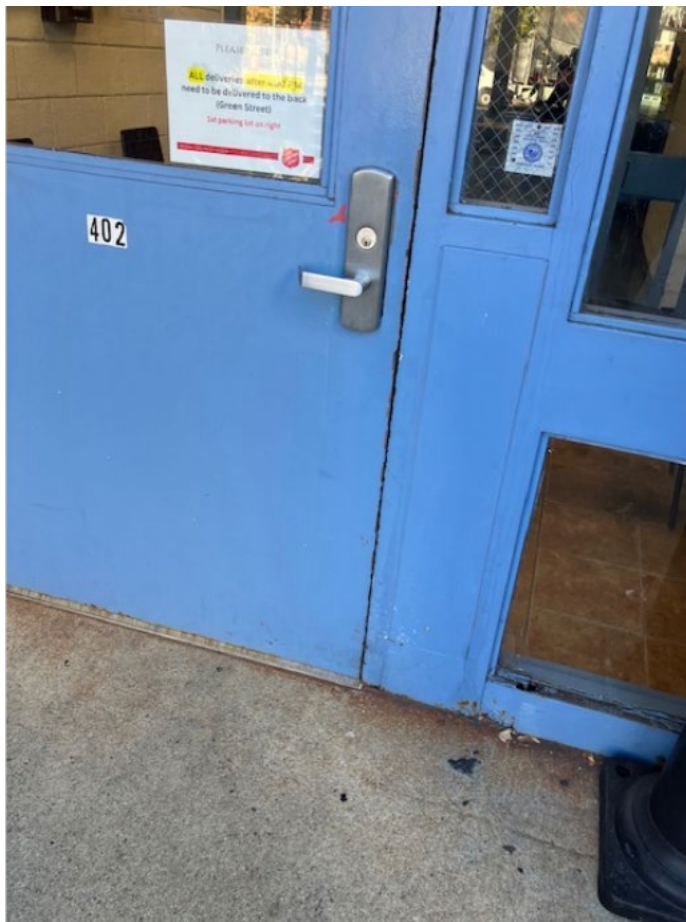
A door is being propped open with a wooden block to the inside of the Salvation Army polling place entrance. The clear space between the door and brick wall measures under 32 inches. The wooden block propping the door open obstructs the doorway.



Closeup of the unlevel patch of pavement in front of the cement landing.



A cement landing with a measuring tape in front of it, showing that the step measures four to five inches.



The entry doorway to the Salvation Army polling site. The surveyor noted that the door was heavy and narrow.



The front entry to the Salvation Army is being measured. The clear space between the doorway measures about 27 inches.



A door is being propped open and partially obstructed by a wooden block. The door opens onto the street. The doorway appears narrow, under 32 inches wide between the doorway and brick wall.



A tape measure shows that an uneven cement landing measures three inches above the ground.



A tape measure shows that an uneven cement landing measures two to three inches above the ground.

Saint Peter's Church Cambridge Photo



The entrance to Saint Peter's Church. A note is taped to the door reading Push Door. A sign containing the International Symbol of Accessibility is placed inside the window next to the door. The surveyor noted that this door felt heavy.

Medford Professional Fire Association Photo



Close up of the Medford Professional Fire Association entry doorway. The door is held open, and there is a metal threshold greater than ½ inch in the doorway.

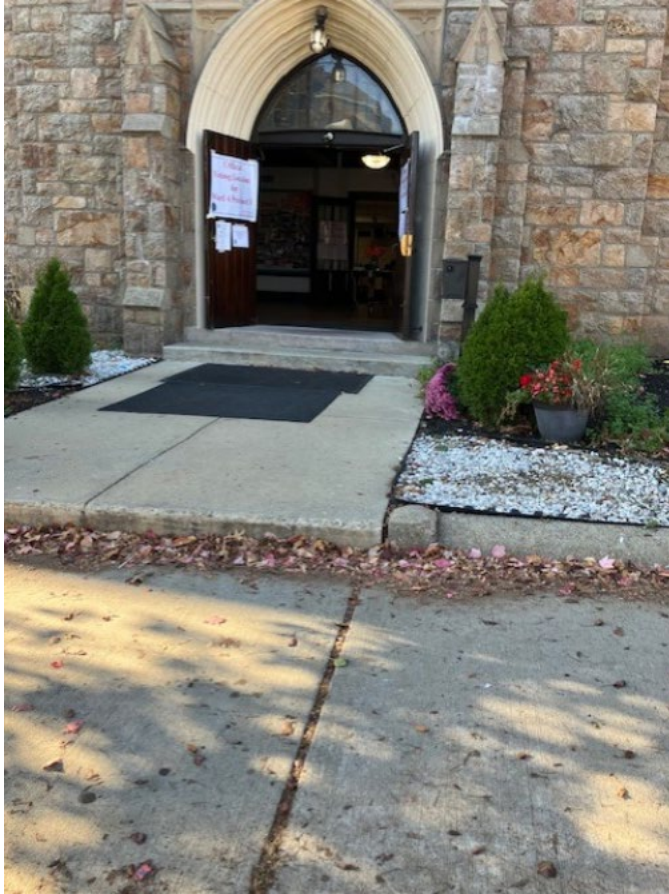
Brazilian Presbyterian Church Somerville Photos



The accessible entrance to the Brazilian Presbyterian Church. The entry door is being propped open about three quarters of the way, posing a barrier to people using mobility devices. A sign next to the door contains the International Symbol of Accessibility and points to the entrance. The sign, partly closed door, and threshold are potential barriers to the accessible path of travel.



A measuring tape in front of a threshold to enter the Brazilian Presbyterian church. The threshold measures between two to three inches high.



Main entrance to the Brazilian Presbyterian Church. The path of travel has one step leading to a landing and two steps leading into the main entrance. The double doors are in an open position.

MetroWest

Polling Places Surveyed in the MetroWest Region

Data from a total of 20 polling locations in the MetroWest region were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators at MetroWest Center for Independent Living (the Independent Living Center serving the MetroWest Region) surveyed the following polling places in their service area:

1. Brophy Elementary School: 575 Pleasant St. Framingham
2. Framingham City Offices: 150 Concord St., Framingham
3. Keefe Technical High School: 750 Winter St., Framingham
4. Potter Road Elementary School: 492 Potter Road, Framingham
5. Franklin High School: 218 Oak St., Franklin
6. Francis J. Kane Elementary School: 520 Farm Road, Marlborough
7. Hildreth School: 85 Sawin St., Marlborough
8. Marlborough Senior Center: 40 New St., Marlborough
9. Raymond Richer Elementary School: 80 Foley Road, Marlborough
10. Whitcomb Middle School: 25 Union St., Marlborough
11. Fowler Middle School: 3 Tiger Drive, Maynard
12. Sudbury Town Hall: 322 Concord Road, Sudbury *Also surveyed by a League of Women Voters volunteer
13. Wayland Middle School: 201 Main St., Wayland
14. Wayland Town Hall: 41 Cochituate Ave., Wayland

A total of three polling place accessibility audits were completed by one Disability Law Center staff in the MetroWest region:

1. Ashland High School: 65 East Union St., Ashland
2. Holliston High School: 370 Hollis St., Holliston
3. Hopkinton Middle School: 88 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton

One collaborator at Nelson Mullins Law Firm surveyed the following polling locations:

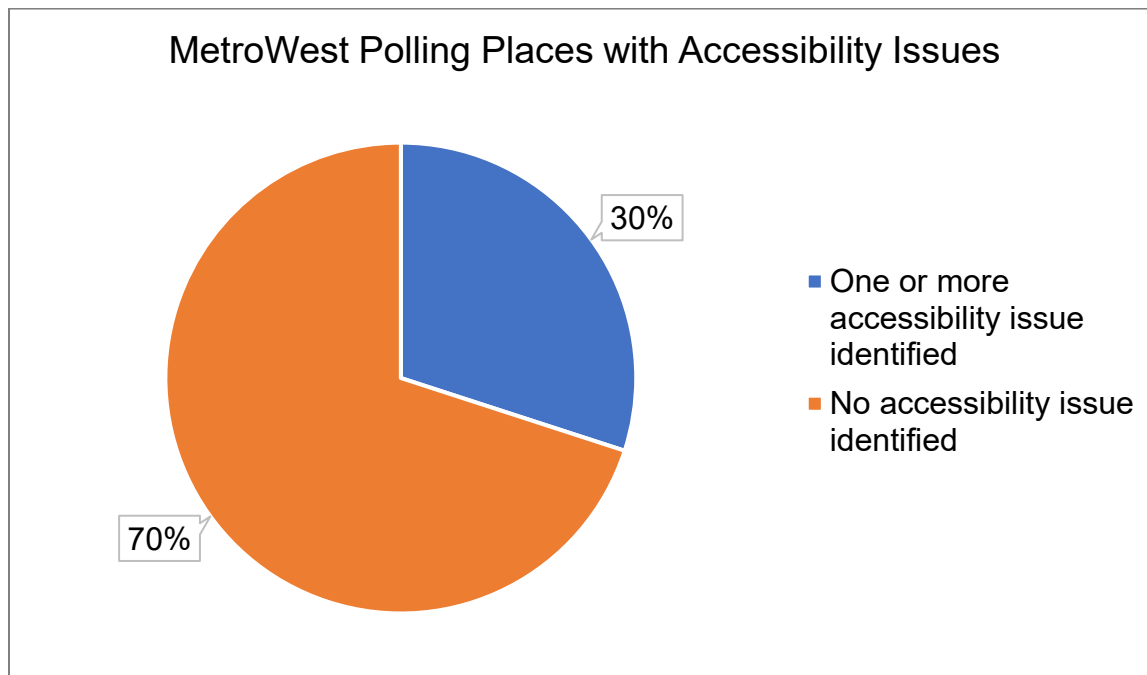
1. Dover Town Hall: 5 Springdale Ave., Dover
2. Needham Town Hall: 1471 Highland Ave., Needham

A volunteer from the League of Women Voters in the MetroWest region surveyed the following polling places:

1. Fairbank Community Center: 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury
2. Sudbury Town Hall: 322 Concord Road, Sudbury *Also surveyed by MetroWest Center for Independent Living

MetroWest Region Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 9: MetroWest Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

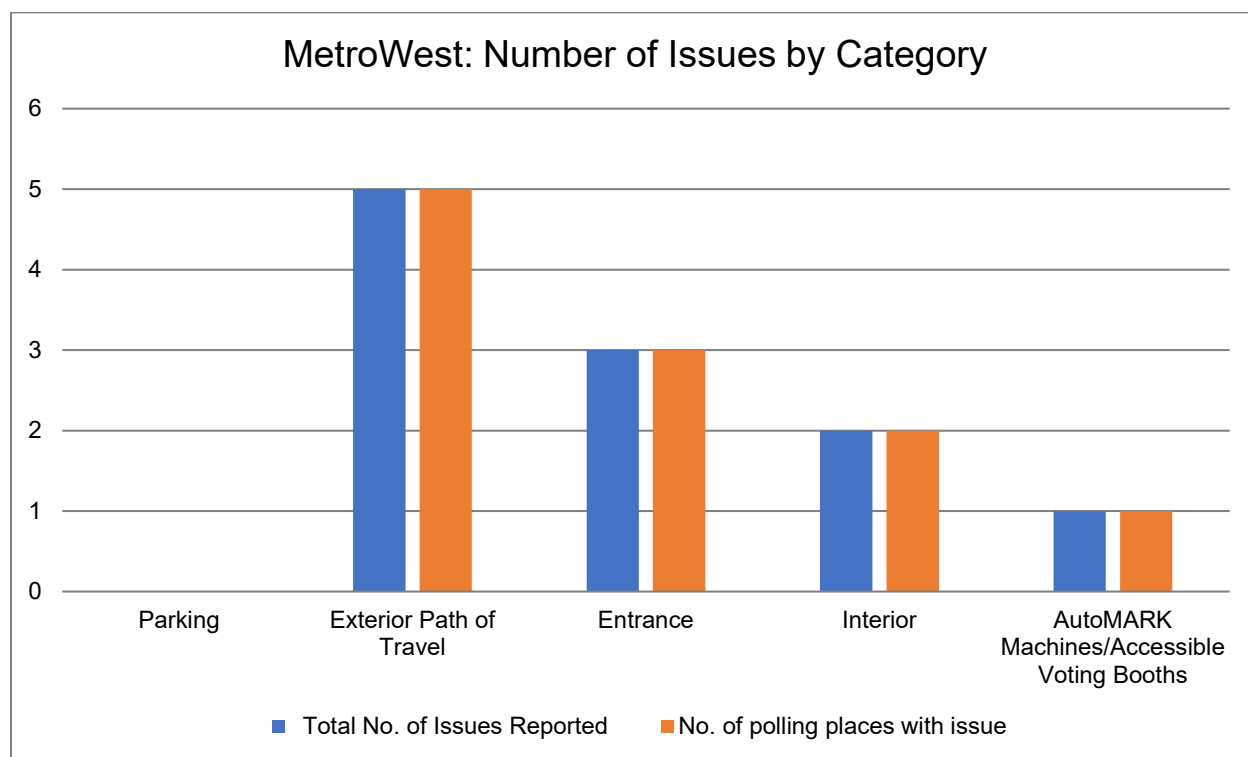


30% of polling places in the MetroWest region had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 20 polling places surveyed by DLC and our collaborators across the MetroWest region, surveyors identified six (30%) of polling places with at least one accessibility issue. Fourteen polling places did not have any accessibility issues identified by surveyors. Not all the surveyors were able to access the interior of polling places in the MetroWest region, limiting the data collected concerning interior accessibility.

The polling place with the highest number of issues identified in the MetroWest region was Holliston High School, where three issues were reported. On average, polling places in the MetroWest region had one or fewer issues identified by surveyors.

Chart 10: MetroWest: Number of Issues by Category



25% of polling places in the MetroWest region had exterior path of travel issues.

The most common issue for MetroWest area polling places was the exterior path of travel, with five issues reported at five (25%) polling places.

At two polling places, surveyors reported that the exterior path of travel was not a common continuous surface and was interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to broken pavement or a steep slope).

Other issues included voters being directed to use a further entrance from the accessible parking area (one polling place), a lack of signage directing voters to the accessible entrance (one polling place), and the exterior ramp being too narrow (one polling place).

15% of polling places in the MetroWest region had entrance issues.

Another common area of concern in the MetroWest region surrounded the entrances, with three issues reported at three (15%) polling places.

At two polling places, the surveyor reported that the entrance doors lacked accessible hardware and would be difficult to open independently with a closed fist. At one polling place, the surveyor reported that the main entrance stairs lacked compliant handrails.

10% of polling places in the MetroWest region had an interior issue.

At two (10%) polling places in the MetroWest region, auditors reported that sample ballots/voting information were not posted accessibly.

5% or one polling place in the MetroWest region had an AutoMARK issue.

At one polling place, the surveyor noted that the AutoMARK machine was not set up at all during early voting hours, barring people with print disabilities from voting privately, accessibly, and independently during in-person early voting.

None of the polling places had parking issues that were reported.

Table 7: MetroWest: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Ashland High School, Ashland	2
Dover Town Hall, Dover (early voting)	2
Brophy Elementary School, Framingham Precincts 19 – 21	0
Framingham City Offices, Framingham Precincts 12 – 14	0
Keefe Technical High School, Framingham Precincts 7 – 9	0
Potter Road Elementary School, Framingham Precincts 23 & 24	0
Franklin High School, Franklin	0
Holliston High School, Holliston	3
Hopkinton Middle School, Hopkinton	0
Francis J. Kane Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 1 Precincts 1 & 2, Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Hildreth School, Marlborough Ward 7 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Marlborough Senior Center, Marlborough Ward 3 Precinct 1, Ward 4 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Raymond Richer Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 3 Precinct 2	0
Whitcomb Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 6 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Fowler Middle School, Maynard	0
Needham Town Hall, Needham	1
Fairbank Community Center, Sudbury	1
Sudbury Town Hall, Sudbury (early voting)	2
Wayland Middle School, Wayland Precincts 2 & 3	0
Wayland Town Hall, Wayland Precincts 1 & 4	0

Table 8: MetroWest: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Ashland High School, Ashland	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 Voters were directed away from using the accessible entrance that has an automatic door opener, towards a further entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)	1.1 Voters should be permitted to enter through the accessible entrance, and signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance. The exterior path of travel should be the same or substantially similar distance as the path of travel to the main entrance.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The entrance that voters were directed to did not have accessible hardware and would be difficult for a wheelchair user to navigate independently. (The surveyor noted that poll workers propped the door open upon request.)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	2.1 Lever handles or accessible hardware should be provided on doors. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
Dover Town Hall, Dover (early voting)	1. Interior	1.1 One of the sample ballots was posted inaccessibly, higher than 48 inches above the ground.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	1.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not set up during early voting hours.	950 CMR 47.04(4)	2.1 Each early voting location should be accessible and have an accessible marking unit readily available to voters.
Brophy Elementary School, Framingham Precincts 19 – 21	No issues reported	--	--	--
Framingham City Offices, Framingham Precincts 12 – 14	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Keefe Technical High School, Framingham Precincts 7 – 9	No issues reported	--	--	--
Potter Road Elementary School, Framingham Precincts 23 & 24	No issues reported	--	--	--
Franklin High School, Franklin	No issues reported	--	--	--
Holliston High School, Holliston	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Entrance	2.1 There was no accessible hardware on the doors. The doors could not be opened independently with a closed fist.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	2.1 Lever handles or accessible hardware should be provided on doors. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
	3. Interior	3.1 Sample ballots and voting information were not posted accessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.1 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
Hopkinton Middle School, Hopkinton	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Francis J. Kane Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 1 Precincts 1 & 2, Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Hildreth School, Marlborough Ward 7 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Marlborough Senior Center, Marlborough Ward 3 Precinct 1, Ward 4 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Raymond Richer Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 3 Precinct 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Whitcomb Elementary School, Marlborough Ward 6 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Fowler Middle School, Maynard	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Needham Town Hall, Needham	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior ramp was too narrow (less than 48 inches wide).	950 CMR 51.02(4)(a); 521 CMR 24.4	1.1 Ramps should be at least 48 inches wide, with a level landing of at least 60 inches at each section of the ramp. If the ramp changes direction, a level landing of 60 inches x 60 inches should be provided.
Fairbank Community Center, Sudbury	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The crosswalk near the voting entrance has an abrupt change in level greater than ½ inch deep.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
Sudbury Town Hall, Sudbury (Early voting)	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel from the accessible parking to the entrance is not a common continuous surface and has an area where there is a nine-degree slope.	950 CMR 51.02(1); 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route - exterior or interior - has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The main entrance does not have compliant handrails.	521 CMR 27.00	2.1 Stairs should have handrails on both sides and comply with 521 CMR 27.00.
Wayland Middle School, Wayland Precincts 2 & 3	No issues reported	--	--	--
Wayland Town Hall, Wayland Precincts 1 & 4	No issues reported	--	--	--

Northeast

Polling Places Surveyed in the Northeast Region

Data from a total of 20 polling locations in the Northeast region were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators at Northeast Independent Living Program (the Independent Living Center that serves parts of Essex County, Middlesex County, and the Boston area) audited fifteen polling locations for accessibility across Northeastern Massachusetts:

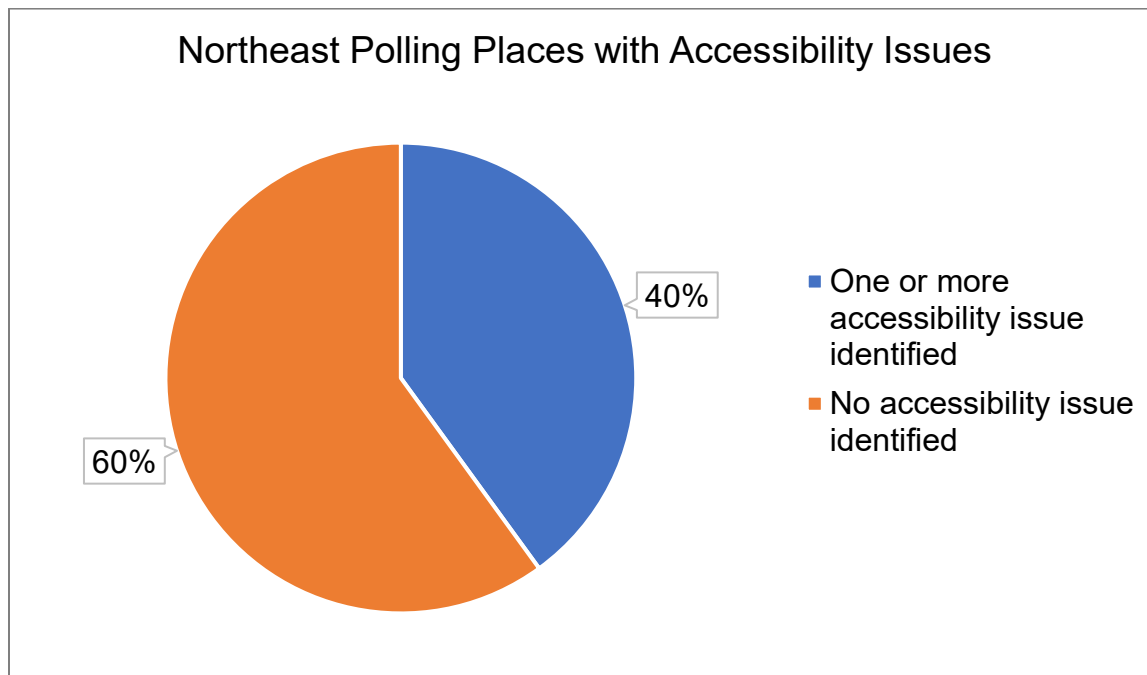
1. Dracut Public Library: 28 Arlington St., Dracut
2. Dracut Senior Center: 941 Mammoth Road, Dracut
3. Richardson Middle School: 1270 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut
4. Haverhill Citizens Center: 10 Welcome St., Haverhill
5. Somebody Cares of Haverhill: 358 Washington St., Haverhill
6. Haverhill Public Library: 99 Main St., Haverhill
7. North Andover High School: 430 Osgood St., North Andover
8. Bates Elementary School: 53 Liberty Hill Ave., Salem
9. Bentley Academy Gymnasium: 25 Memorial Dr., Salem
10. Community Center: 135 Lafayette St., Salem
11. Community Life Center: 401 Bridge St., Salem
12. Salem State University Enterprise Center: 121 Loring Ave., Salem
13. Salem High School: 77 Wilson St., Salem
14. Saltonstall Elementary School: 211 Lafayette St., Salem
15. Witchcraft Heights Elementary School: 1 Frederick St., Salem

One Disability Law Center staff member conducted five polling place accessibility surveys at the following polling locations on the North Shore:

1. Magnolia Library: 1 Lexington Ave., Gloucester
2. Our Lady's Youth Center: 140 Prospect St., Gloucester
3. Rockport Community House: 58 Broadway Ave., Rockport
4. Rockport Town Hall Annex: 26 Broadway Ave., Rockport
5. Saint Mary's Episcopal Church: 24 Broadway Ave., Rockport

Northeast Region Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 11: Northeast Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

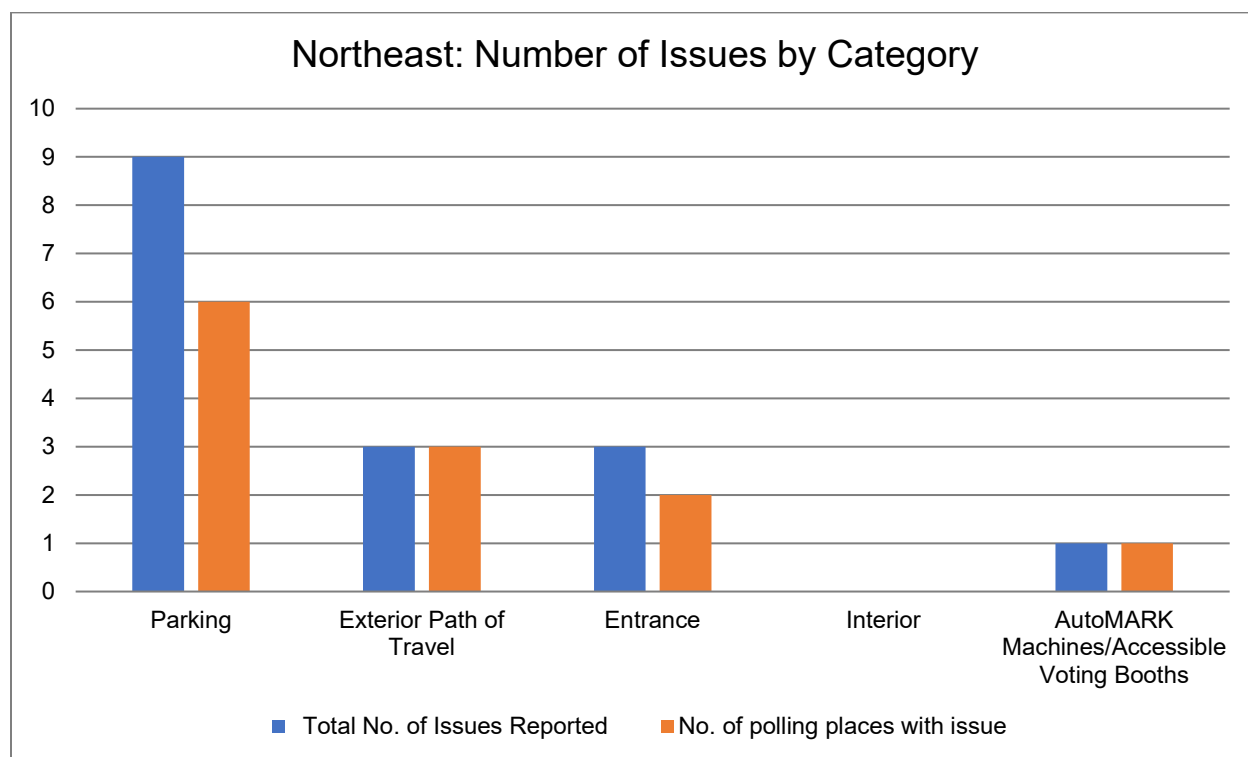


40% of polling places in the Northeast Massachusetts region had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 20 polling places surveyed by DLC and our collaborators across the Northeast region, surveyors identified eight polling places (40%) with at least one accessibility issue. 12 polling places (60%) had no accessibility issues reported.

The polling place with the highest number of issues identified in the Northeast region was Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Rockport, where a total of six issues were reported. On average, polling places in the region had one or less issues identified by surveyors.

Chart 12: Northeast: Number of Issues by Category



30% of polling places in the Northeast region had parking issues.

The most common issue for Northeast area polling places was parking, with nine issues reported at six (30%) polling places.

The most common parking issue was that parking spaces were not clearly marked by above-ground signage (five polling places – two of which shared a parking lot). Another common problem was that parking spaces or adjacent access aisles were not striped properly (three polling places – two of which shared a parking lot).

15% of polling places in the Northeast region had issues with the exterior paths of travel.

The second most common area of concern at Northeast polling places was the exterior path of travel, with three issues reported at three (15%) polling places.

At two polling places, the surveyor reported that the path of travel was interrupted by abrupt changes in level due to cracked or lifted pavement. At one location, the ramp only measured 44 inches (four inches less than the required 48 inches wide).

10% of polling places in the Northeast region had issues with entrances.

Three issues with entrances were reported at two (10%) polling places.

At one polling place, the entrance to the polling location was partly obstructed by a sign directing voters to the location. At another polling location, the threshold to enter the polling location was ½ inch or greater, and the approach to the accessible entrance had less than 60 inches of level space outside, creating a narrow space for voters with mobility devices to enter.

5% or one polling place in the Northeast region had an AutoMARK concern.

One surveyor reported that the AutoMARK machine was not privately located at one polling place.

None of the polling places surveyed in the Northeast region had interior issues that were reported.

Table 9: Northeast: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Dracut Public Library, Dracut Precincts 4 & 8	0
Dracut Senior Center, Dracut Precincts 1, 5, & 6A	1
Richardson Middle School, Dracut Precincts 2, 3, 6, 7, & 9	0
Magnolia Library, Gloucester Ward 5 Precinct 1	1
Our Lady's Youth Center, Gloucester Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	2
Haverhill Citizen Center, Haverhill Ward 1 Precincts 2 & 2A, Ward 3 Precinct 1	0
Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill Ward 3 Precinct 2	1
Somebody Cares of Haverhill, Haverhill Ward 1 Precinct 1	0
North Andover High School, North Andover	0
Rockport Community House, Rockport Precinct 3	1
Rockport Town Hall Annex, Rockport Precinct 1	3
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Rockport Precinct 2	6
Bates Elementary School, Salem Ward 6 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Bentley Academy Gymnasium, Salem Ward 1 Precinct 1	0
Community Life Center, Salem Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Community Center, Salem Ward 1 Precinct 2	0
Salem High School, Salem Ward 3 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Salem State University Enterprise Center, Salem Ward 7 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Saltonstall Elementary School, Salem Ward 5 Precincts 1 & 2	0
Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, Salem Ward 5 Precincts 1 & 2	0

Table 10: Northeast: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Dracut Public Library, Dracut Precincts 4 & 8	No issues reported	--	--	--
Dracut Senior Center, Dracut Precincts 1, 5, & 6A	1. Entrance	1.1 The doorway to the entrance appeared narrow and partially obstructed by signage.	950 CMR 51.02(3)	1.1 Doorways should be at least 32 inches clear width, with 60 inches of space on interior and exterior sides
Richardson Middle School, Dracut Precincts 2, 3, 6, 7, & 9	No issues reported	--	--	--
Magnolia Library, Gloucester Ward 5 Precinct 1	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior ramp is too narrow (only 44 inches wide). (See Magnolia Library Gloucester Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(4)(a); 521 CMR 24.3	1.1 Ramps should be at least 48 inches wide, with a level landing of at least 60 inches at each section of the ramp. If the ramp changes direction, a level landing of 60 inches x 60 inches should be provided.
Our Lady's Youth Center, Gloucester Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	1. Parking	1.1 The temporary parking space is marked with unclear signage that identifies the accessible space as a drop-off rather than a parking area.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
		1.2 The parking lot is not properly striped/marked with an access aisle. The surveyor noted that striping was in progress (Surveyor noted that parking lot access has improved since last year's survey).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.2 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Haverhill Citizen Center, Haverhill Ward 1 Precincts 2 & 2A, Ward 3 Precinct 1	No issues reported	--	--	--
Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill Ward 3 Precinct 2	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces are not marked clearly with above ground signage.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."
Somebody Cares of Haverhill, Haverhill Ward 1 Precinct 1	No issues reported	--	--	--
North Andover High School, North Andover	No issues reported	--	--	--
Rockport Community House, Rockport Precinct 3	1. Parking	1.1 The above-ground signage marking the accessible parking space is too low (only 46 inches high). (See Rockport Community House Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Rockport Town Hall Annex, Rockport Precinct 1 *Note: Shares a parking lot with Saint Mary's Episcopal Church	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces were not clearly marked by above-ground signage.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."
		1.2 The accessible parking space is not wide enough/not properly striped.	950 CMR 51.02 (2)	1.2 For parking lots striped before 9/1/1996: accessible parking spaces should be eight feet wide with an adjacent four-foot-wide access aisle, marked with high-contrast white or yellow paint. Each space or pair of spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. For parking lots striped after 9/1/1996: At least one space in the parking lot should be a van accessible space. Van accessible spaces should be eight feet wide, with an adjacent eight-foot-wide access aisle marked by high contrast paint. Standard HP spaces should be eight feet wide with an adjacent five-foot-wide access aisle marked by high contrast paint.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 Some parts of the sidewalk leading to the polling place are lifting from the ground, creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (See Rockport Town Hall Annex Photos)	950 CMR 51.02 (1)	2.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Rockport Precinct 2 *Note: Shares a parking lot with Rockport Town Hall Annex	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces were not clearly marked by above-ground signage.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."
		1.2 The accessible parking space is not wide enough/not properly striped.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.2 For parking lots striped before 9/1/1996: accessible parking spaces should be eight feet wide with an adjacent four-foot-wide access aisle, marked with high-contrast white or yellow paint. For parking lots striped after 9/1/1996: At least one space in the parking lot should be a van accessible space. Van accessible spaces should be eight feet wide, with an adjacent eight-foot-wide access aisle marked by high contrast paint. Standard HP spaces should be eight feet wide with an adjacent five-foot-wide access aisle marked by high contrast paint.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The path of travel is interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to uneven/lifting sidewalks). (See Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Rockport Photos)	950 CMR 51.02 (1)	2.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The entrance doorway has a threshold of greater than ½ inch. (See Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Rockport Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	3.1 The threshold in the doorway of the accessible entrance should measure no higher than ½ inch above the ground.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church		3.2 The approach to the accessible entrance has less than 60 inches of level space on the outside of the door. (See Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Rockport Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(b)	3.2 There should be a level space of 60 inches on the interior and exterior sides of entrance doors.
	4. AutoMARK	4.1 The AutoMARK machine is not privately located.	52 U.S.C. §21081	4.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Bates Elementary School, Salem Ward 6 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Bentley Academy Gymnasium, Salem Ward 1 Precinct 1	No issues reported	--	--	--
Community Life Center, Salem Ward 2 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Community Center, Salem Ward 1 Precinct 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Salem High School, Salem Ward 3 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Salem State University Enterprise Center, Salem Ward 7 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Saltonstall Elementary School, Salem Ward 5 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--
Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, Salem Ward 5 Precincts 1 & 2	No issues reported	--	--	--

Photos from Northeast Polling Places

Magnolia Library Gloucester Photo



The ramp leading to the Magnolia Library front entrance. The surveyor noted that this ramp was too narrow, less than 48 inches wide.

Rockport Community House Photo



An accessible parking space is pictured in front of the Rockport Community House entrance. The blue parking sign with the International Symbol of Accessibility stands less than 4 feet high in front of the parking space.

Rockport Town Hall Annex Photos



Concrete walkway to the Rockport Town Hall Annex. The sidewalk has uneven and lifting concrete, creating a step of an inch or two above the ground.



The uneven sidewalk leading to the Rockport Town Hall Annex.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Rockport Photos



A sidewalk lining the street next to Saint Mary's in Rockport. There is an area of brick next to the cement sidewalk with a difference in level greater than half an inch.



A level greater than a half inch between the concrete and the brick interrupts the path of travel between the signs.



View of the entryway of Saint Mary's Church from the inside of the building, facing towards the street and brick area in front of the church. A concrete threshold of roughly ½ inch to one inch tall disrupts the path of travel.



Saint Mary's entry doorway from the exterior area in front of the doors. A black rubber mat is placed in front of the doors and threshold which measures over ½ inch above the ground.

Pioneer Valley

Polling Places Surveyed in the Pioneer Valley Region

Data from a total of 15 polling locations in the Pioneer Valley (Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties) were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators at Stavros Center for Independent Living (the Independent Living Center serving the Pioneer Valley) surveyed the following locations:

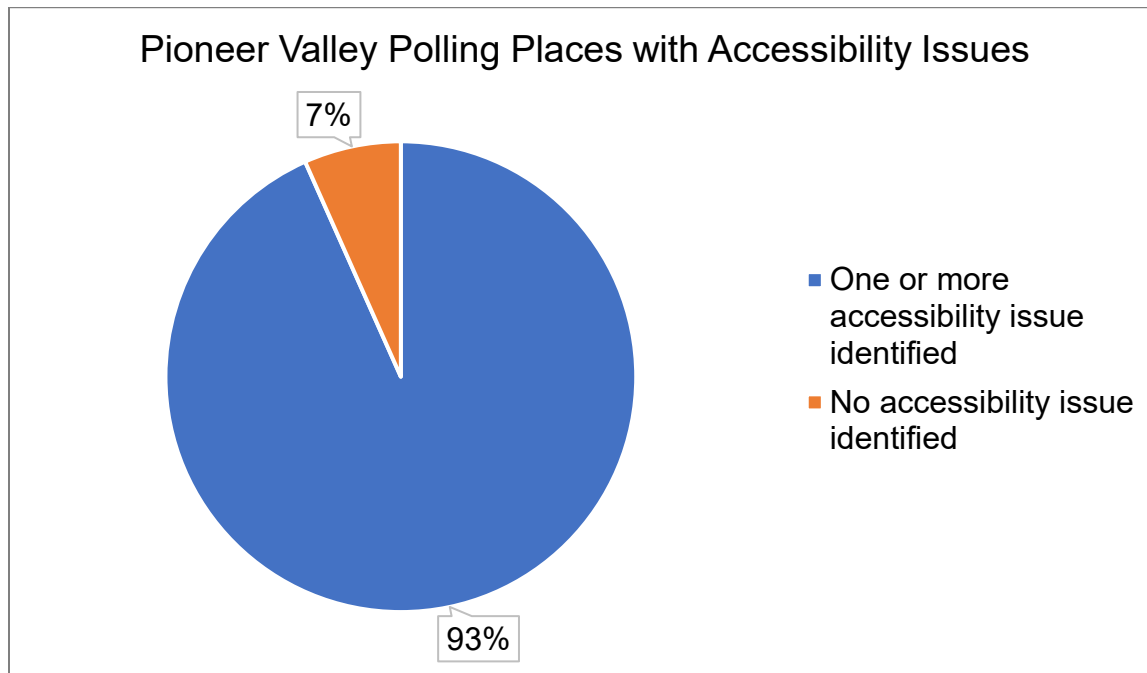
1. Amherst-Pelham Regional High School: 21 Mattoon St., Amherst
2. Immanuel Lutheran Church: 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst
3. Munson Memorial Library: 1046 South East Street, Amherst
4. North Amherst Library: 8 Montague Road, Amherst
5. Indian Orchard Citizens Council: 117 Main St., Springfield
6. North End Youth Center: 1772 Dwight St., Springfield
7. Springfield Boys and Girls Club: 471 Carew St., Springfield
8. The Good Life Center: 1600 E. Columbus Ave., Springfield

Three Disability Law Center staff surveyed the following polling places in the Pioneer Valley:

1. 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center: 18 Jacobs Road, Heath
2. Saint Paul's Parish: 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke
3. Northfield Town Hall: 69 Main St., Northfield
4. St. Thomas Parish Center: 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer
5. Shelburne Falls Town Hall: 17 State Street, Shelburne
6. South Hadley High School: 153 Newton Street, South Hadley
7. Warwick Town Hall: 12 Athol Road, Warwick

Pioneer Valley Region Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 13: Pioneer Valley Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

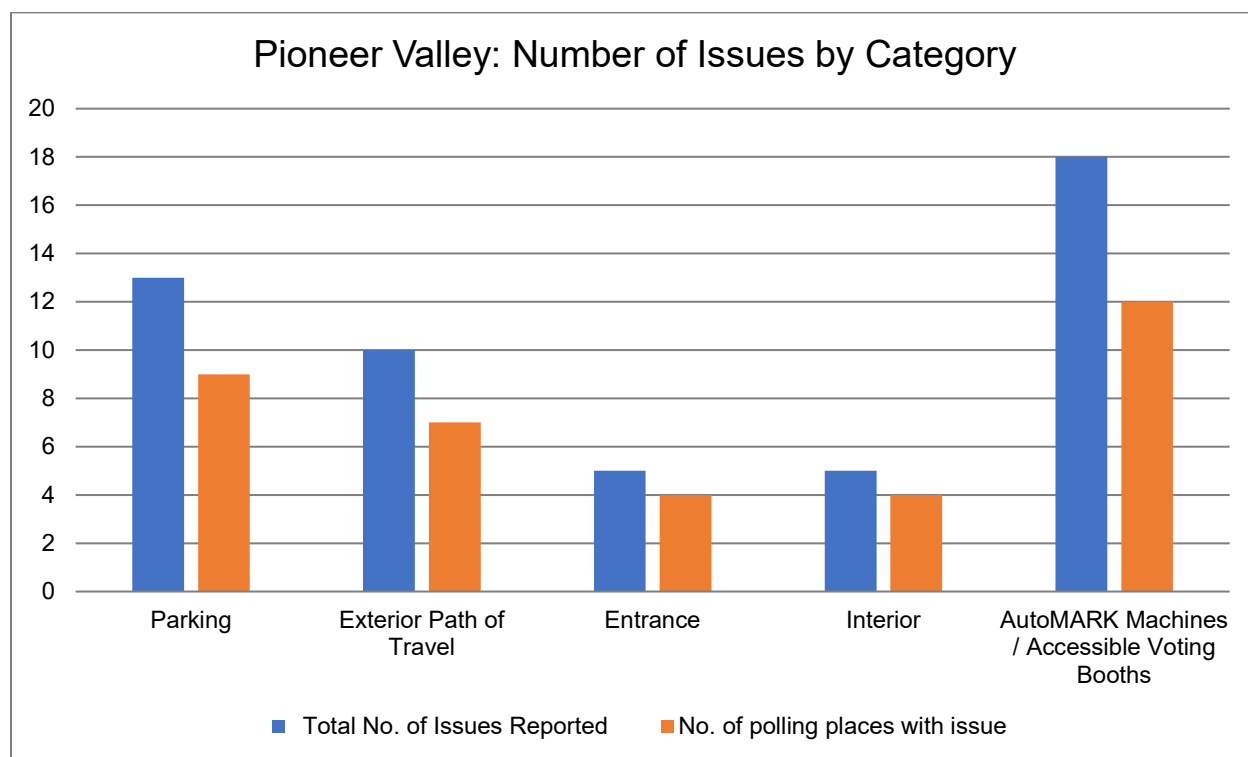


93% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 15 polling places surveyed by DLC and our collaborators across the Pioneer Valley region, surveyors identified 14 polling places (93%) with at least one accessibility issue. Only one polling place had no accessibility issues reported by surveyors.

The polling place with the highest number of issues in the Pioneer Valley region was Warwick Town Hall, where a total of seven issues were reported. Polling places across the Pioneer Valley had an average of 3.4 accessibility issues.

Chart 14: Pioneer Valley: Number of Issues by Category



80% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had an AutoMARK issue.

The most commonly reported area of concern at polling places in the Pioneer Valley was the AutoMARK machine, with 18 issues identified at 12 (80%) polling locations.

The most reported problem with the AutoMARK machine was that it was not privately located (seven locations). Other commonly reported issues included poll workers being unfamiliar with the AutoMARK machine (four locations) and the AutoMARK being set up inaccessibly (four locations).

Surveyors reported that the AutoMARK was set up too close to the wall at two locations, leaving insufficient space for voters with mobility devices to fit behind. For example, at one location, the AutoMARK was placed on a bin that lacked space underneath for voters to be comfortably seated. At another location, the AutoMARK was in a separate room with no signage directing voters to the AutoMARK.

At two polling places in Springfield, the AutoMARK machine was not turned on or set up upon surveyors' arrivals. At one of these locations, the AutoMARK had not yet been delivered to the polling location but was delivered after the surveyors brought the issue to poll workers' attention, according to the Elections Department staff DLC followed up with.

At one DLC staff's regular polling location, the AutoMARK touch screen lagged and was not consistently responsive to touch.

60% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had parking issues.

Another frequent area of concern in the Pioneer Valley was parking, with 13 issues reported at nine (60%) polling locations.

The most frequently reported problem with parking was that the signage marking the accessible parking spaces was too low (less than five feet above ground) at three locations.

Other issues included: accessible spaces being located further from the polling place's entrance than standard parking spaces (two locations), none or an insufficient number of accessible parking spaces provided (two locations), a lack of above-ground signage marking accessible parking spaces (two locations), access aisles or parking spaces being too narrow (two locations), and lack of compliant curb cuts leading from the accessible parking to sidewalks and entrances (two locations).

46% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had issues with the exterior paths of travel.

Issues with exterior paths of travel were also common among Pioneer Valley polling locations, with ten exterior issues reported at seven (46%) locations.

Most commonly, the exterior path of travel was interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch due to pavement or sidewalks in disrepair (five locations). Another common issue was the lack of signage directing voters to the accessible entrance or parking areas (three locations).

At one polling place, surveyors noted two issues with the bottom of the exterior ramp being covered in debris, potentially impeding the path of travel for voters with disabilities. At this same location, the exterior ramp's handrails were compliant but rusting, posing a potential accessibility or safety concern for disabled voters.

26% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had entrance issues.

A total of five concerns about entrances were reported at four (26%) polling locations.

At two polling locations, surveyors reported that the door to enter felt heavy. At one polling location, the entrance door width was noncompliant, posing a potential barrier to voters using mobility devices. One surveyor reported that a door handle was too high (over 48 inches above the ground). At one polling location, poll workers indicated to surveyors that voters could use an inaccessible exit which had a step down

to a grassy area. This exit would have been potentially unsafe for a voter using a mobility device to navigate.

26% of polling places in the Pioneer Valley had interior issues.

Five problems with the interior paths of travel were reported at four (26%) Pioneer Valley polling locations.

The most commonly reported problem with interiors was a lack of signage directing voters to the voting area or accessible path of travel inside the building (three locations).

At one polling location, the voting area was narrow and lacked sufficient turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Another location lacked sample ballots/voting information posted on the inside of the polling place.

Table 11: Pioneer Valley: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Amherst Precinct 2-A	3
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amherst Precinct 1-B	2
Munson Memorial Library, Amherst Precinct 5-B	1
North Amherst Library, Amherst Precinct 1-A	0
18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center, Heath	4
Saint Paul's Church Parish Center, Holyoke Precincts 4A & 4B	3
Northfield Town Hall, Northfield	3
St. Thomas Parish Center, Palmer Precincts 2 & 3	3
Shelburne Falls Town Hall, Shelburne	1
South Hadley High School, South Hadley	3
Indian Orchard Citizen's Council, Springfield Precinct 8E	6
North End Youth Center, Springfield Precincts 1C & 1C1	5
Springfield Boys and Girls Club, Springfield Precincts 2A, 2B, & 2C	5
The Good Life Center, Springfield Precinct 1H	5
Warwick Town Hall, Warwick	7

Table 12: Pioneer Valley: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Amherst Precinct 2-A	1. Parking	1.1 The two accessible parking spaces are located downhill and further from the voting entrance than many other standard parking spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 521 CMR 23.3	1.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
		1.2 The parking lot had an insufficient number of accessible parking spaces: there appeared to be 51-75 parking spots total but only two accessible spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(a)	1.2 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located (the AutoMARK was in the path of travel and its screen was easily visible to voters waiting in line).	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amherst Precinct 1-B	1. Parking	1.1 The above-ground signage identifying the HP space was posted too low (four feet above ground).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."
		1.2 The accessible parking spaces are somewhat far from the entrance doors.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 521 CMR 23.3	1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Munson Memorial Library, Amherst Precinct 5-B	1. Entrance	1.1 The door to enter the polling place was not wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through. However, staff were available to assist as needed.	950 CMR 51.02(3)	1.1 Doorways should measure at least 32 inches clear width and unobstructed.
North Amherst Library, Amherst Precinct 1-A	No issues reported	--	--	--
18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center, Heath	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel is interrupted by a 1.5-inch curb in the parking lot and uneven repairs to cracked pavement. (See 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center Heath Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	2. Parking	2.1 The above-ground signage marking the accessible parking space was only 4 feet 6 inches high.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground.
		2.2 There was no signage marking the Van accessible parking space.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.2 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words “Van accessible.”

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was placed too close to the wall (insufficient space for a wheelchair user to fit behind).	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	3.1 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches in diameter of turnaround space.
Saint Paul's Church Parish Center, Holyoke Precincts 4A & 4B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 Parts of the sidewalks surrounding the polling place were interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch (due to uneven and cracked pavement). (See Saint Paul's Parish Holyoke Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous, and uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy screen was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
		2.2 The warden and polling place workers were not familiar with how to operate the AutoMARK machine.	950 CMR 54.04(9)	2.2 Poll workers should be familiar with the AutoMARK machine and able to instruct voters on how to use the machine.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Northfield Town Hall, Northfield	1. Parking	1.1 One of the above-ground signs identifying accessible parking is too low (only 4 feet 9 inches tall).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."
	2. Interior Path of Travel	2.1 No signage directs voters from the elevator/accessible path of travel to the voting area.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	2.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance/path of travel.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
St. Thomas Parish Center, Palmer Precincts 2 & 3	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 No signage directed voters to the additional parking in the back of the building, creating confusion for those unfamiliar with this location.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible parking spaces and path of travel.
		1.2 There is a gap between the walkway in the accessible path of travel, creating a change in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.2 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
St. Thomas Parish Center	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Shelburne Falls Town Hall, Shelburne	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy barriers were visible.	52 U.S.C. §21081	1.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
South Hadley High School, South Hadley	1. Parking	1.1 The van accessible parking space's access aisle was just two inches too narrow.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(c)	1.1 Van accessible spaces should be eight feet wide with an adjacent eight-foot-wide access aisle marked by high contrast paint.
	2. Entrance	2.1 The doors to enter the polling place felt somewhat heavy to open.	521 CMR 26.8.1	2.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than 15 pounds. Doors should be propped open on election day. If possible, poll workers should be stationed to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available so that poll workers can hear when someone needs assistance entering.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The touch screen was not fully functional (lagged and somewhat unresponsive to touch), a seemingly common issue with AutoMARKs,	VVSG Volume 1 Section 3.1.6	3.1 The voting process should minimize interaction difficulties for the voter, including providing input mechanisms designed to minimize accidental activity or providing unambiguous feedback when making selections.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Indian Orchard Citizen's Council, Springfield Precinct 8E	1. Entrance	1.1 The door to the accessible entrance felt heavy to open.	521 CMR 26.8.1	1.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than 15 pounds. Doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be stationed to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available so that poll workers can hear when someone needs assistance entering.
		1.2 Poll workers indicated that the back door could be used as an exit. However, this door was inaccessible as it led to a small ledge/step leading to a grassy area. This would be unsafe for wheelchair users to navigate. (See Indian Orchard Citizen's Council Photo)	950 CMR 51.02(3)(b)	1.2 The approach to the accessible entrance should be a paved walk or ramp uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	2. Interior	2.1 There was not enough turnaround space (less than 48 inches) inside of the voting area, partly due to the placement of tables which create barriers to voters using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	2.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was switched off and still sitting in its suitcase.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(a); 52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should be readily available for use by voters with disabilities.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Indian Orchard Citizen's Council		3.2 Poll workers did not know what the AutoMARK machine was or how to operate it.	950 CMR 54.04(9)	3.2 Election workers, in addition to polling place wardens, should be trained to use the AutoMARK and instruct voters on its use.
		3.3 The AutoMARK had insufficient space for a wheelchair user to fit behind.	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §304.3	3.3 The AutoMARK should be placed in an area with at least 60 inches diameter of turnaround space.
North End Youth Center, Springfield, Precincts 1C & 1C1	1. Parking	1.1 There are no accessible spaces marked by paint nor above ground signage. However, there is a curb cut that provides sidewalk access where accessible parking could be easily reserved. (See North End Youth Center Springfield Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The bottom section of the exterior ramp was covered in leaves, creating an obstruction for voters using mobility devices. (See North End Youth Center Springfield Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.1 The accessible path of travel should be a common, continuous surface that is unobstructed.
		2.2 The ramp handrails are compliant but rusting. (See North End Youth Center Springfield Photos)	521 CMR 24.5.7	2.2 The ramp handrails may need to be repaired or replaced. The gripping surface should be free of any harsh or abrasive elements.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
North End Youth Center	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located and faced the path of travel. No privacy screen was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
		3.2 The AutoMARK was placed on top of a bin that did not have any space underneath.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(c)	3.2 Marking shelves should have at least 27 inches of clear space to their underside, providing sufficient knee space for voters using mobility devices.
Springfield Boys and Girls Club, Springfield Precincts 2A, 2B, & 2C	1. Parking	1.1 The accessible parking spaces did not have compliant curb cuts leading to the sidewalk. (See Springfield Boys and Girls Club Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)(d)	1.1 Curb cuts should be provided at each pair of accessible parking spaces where there is a sidewalk. The slope of the curb cut should not exceed 1:12 or 8.33 percent.
		1.2 The accessible parking spaces were not marked with above-ground signage. (See Springfield Boys and Girls Club Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.2 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van accessible."

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Springfield Boys and Girls Club	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The pavement in the path of travel from the parking lot to the polling place was broken, leading to abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. (See Springfield Boys and Girls Club Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.1 Paths of travel should be common, continuous surfaces uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not delivered to this polling place. Surveyors raised the issue with election workers, who called the city and asked for an AutoMARK to be brought in. (Election officials reported that the AutoMARK was delivered after this).	950 CMR 51.02(6)(a); 52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK machine should be readily available for use by voters with disabilities.
		3.2 Election workers were unfamiliar with the AutoMARK machine when asked where it was located.	950 CMR 54.04 (9)	3.2 Election workers, in addition to polling place wardens, should be trained to use the AutoMARK and instruct voters on its use.
The Good Life Center, Springfield Precinct 1H	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 There is insufficient signage directing voters to the accessible back entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 If the main entrance to the polling location is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Interior	2.1 There was insufficient signage directing voters from the elevator to the voting area.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	2.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance/path of travel.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
The Good Life Center		2.2 There were no sample ballots or voting information posted.	950 CMR 53.02(4)	2.2 Three specimen ballots, "Instruction to Voters' cards, and "Penalties Upon Voter" cards should be posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place but outside the guard rail. Voting information and sample ballots should be posted at a height no greater than 48 inches above the floor. Sample ballots/voting information should be posted in the accessible path of travel where it is visible to all voters.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 Most of the poll workers were unfamiliar with the AutoMARK machine when asked where it was located.	950 CMR 54.04(9)	3.1 Election workers, in addition to polling place wardens, should be trained to use the AutoMARK and instruct voters on its use.
		3.2 The AutoMARK was in a room off the side of the main lobby/voting area. While this location allowed for sufficient privacy, it would not be obvious to voters that there was an AutoMARK unless they asked several election workers.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(a)	3.2 The AutoMARK machine should be accessibly located and readily available for use by voters with disabilities.
Warwick Town Hall, Warwick	1. Parking	1.1 No curb cut was provided at the pair of accessible parking spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(d)	1.1 If a sidewalk is provided, a curb cut/sidewalk ramp should be installed at each pair of accessible parking spaces. The slope of the curb cut should not exceed 1:12 or 8.33 percent.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Warwick Town Hall		1.2 The access aisle provided at the Van accessible parking space was only 5 feet wide.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(c)	1.2 Van accessible parking spaces should measure eight feet wide with an adjacent eight-foot-wide access aisle.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 The path of travel is interrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. Repairs to the sidewalk resulted in a 12.6 percent grade. (See Warwick Town Hall Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	2.1 The path of travel should be common, continuous, and uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		2.2 No signage directed voters to the accessible ramped entrance in the back of the building.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.2 If the main entrance to the polling location is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The entrance door handle was too high (greater than 48 inches above the floor). (See Warwick Town Hall Photos)	521 CMR 26.11.2	3.1 Door handles should be located 36 inches to 48 inches above the floor.
	4. Interior	4.1 No signage directed voters to the elevator or to the floor where voting was taking place.	950 CMR 51.02(5)	4.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance/path of travel.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Warwick Town Hall	5. AutoMARK	5.1 No privacy shield was provided for the AutoMARK machine.	52 U.S.C. §21081	5.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter of turnaround space at the accessible voting machine. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.

Photos from Pioneer Valley Polling Places

18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center Heath Photo



A sidewalk in front of the accessible parking spaces leading to the 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Center. The side flare on the curb cut has a large crack running through it, and the curb lining the sidewalk is partially lifted from the ground. The crack is patched in some places but is uneven.

Saint Paul's Parish Holyoke Photos



A cracked, uneven sidewalk in the path of travel to Saint Paul's Parish in Holyoke.



A cement slab of sidewalk in the path of travel to Saint Paul's Parish. The sidewalk is partially lifting, creating a change in level of over ½ inch.



The sidewalk leading to Saint Paul's Parish. There are several cracks and uneven areas in the sidewalk, including areas where the sidewalk is lifting or where patches in the pavement create an uneven surface.



The sidewalk in the path of travel to Saint Paul's Parish. The pavement is cracked and caved in.



Patch of sidewalk in Holyoke where the pavement suddenly ends is filled with gravel and dirt, creating an uneven surface.

Indian Orchard Citizen's Council Springfield Photo



Indian Orchard Citizens Council side exit or entrance door. The door leads to a grassy area and has a step down to the grassy area measuring roughly a few inches.

North End Youth Center Springfield Photos



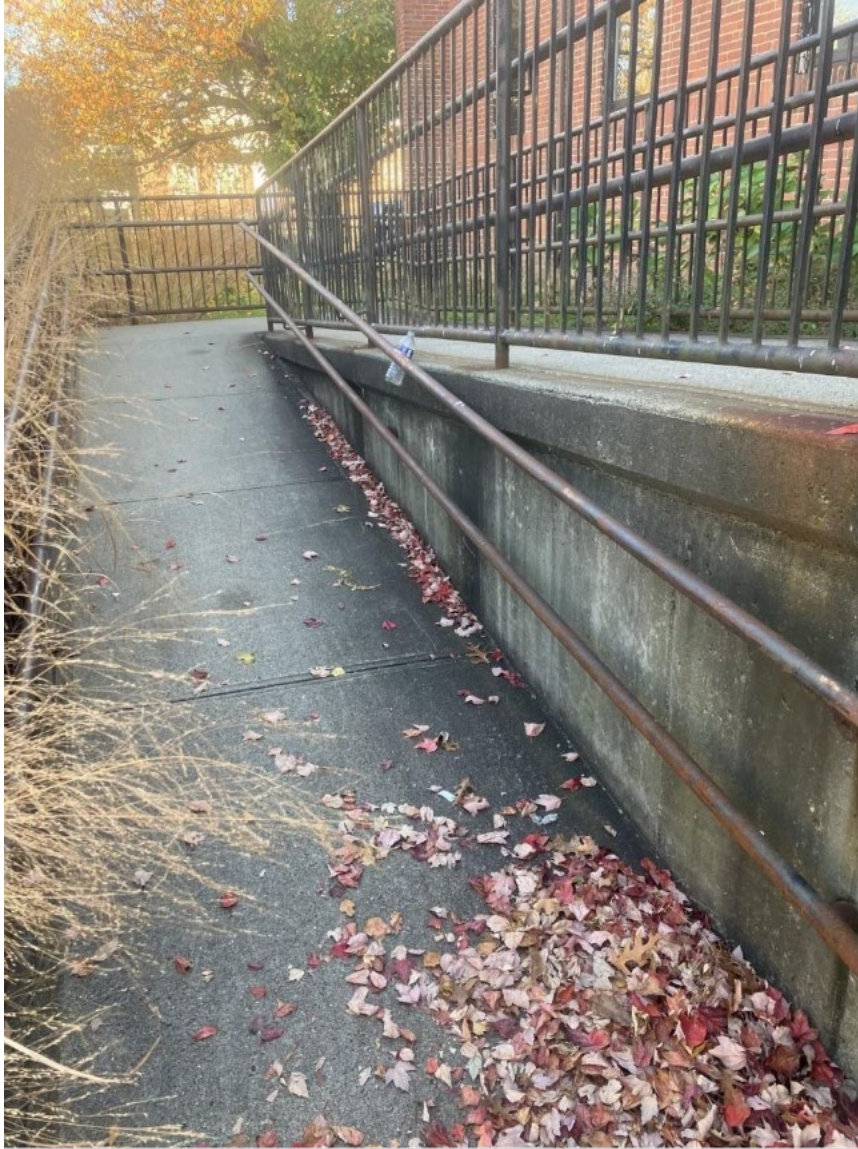
A close view of the curb ramp leading to the sidewalk from the parking lot of North End Youth Center. The curb cut is compliant, but the parking lot spaces are unstriped and no accessible parking spaces are marked.



A view of the North End Youth Center parking lot from the sidewalk. There is a curb ramp visible in the distance, closest to the building. The parking lot is unstriped and unmarked otherwise.

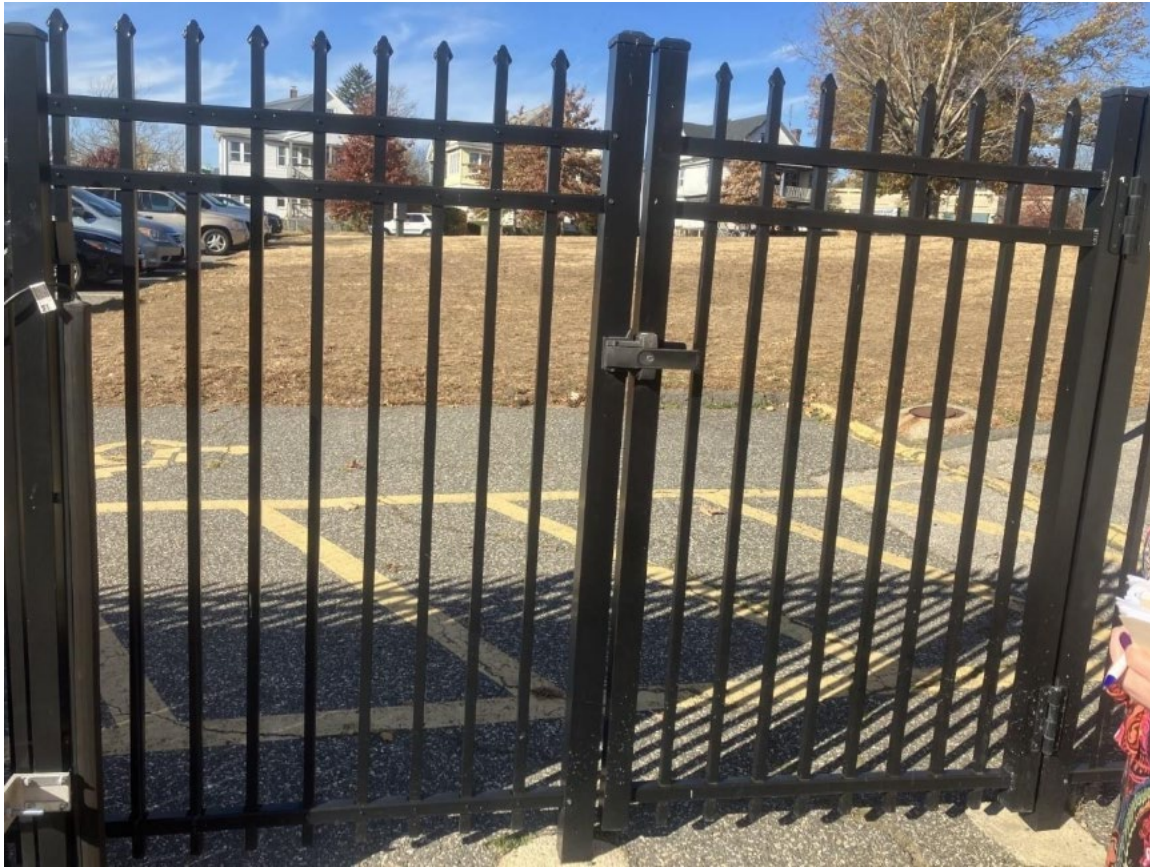


The bottom landing of the ramp at the North End Youth Center. The landing has a thick layer of leaves at the bottom which may be difficult for wheelchair users to navigate over.



View from the bottom of the ramp leading to the North End Youth Center. There are compliant but rusting rounded railings on either side of the ramp.

Springfield Boys and Girls Club Photos



One of the accessible spaces in the Springfield Boys and Girls Club parking lot is placed behind a fence to the left of the polling place entrance. The access aisle next to the parking space leads to a sidewalk which leads to the front entrance of the building. It appears that the pavement has been shaved down to create a makeshift curb cut, but it is uneven and there is no level landing in front of the curb cut.



Path of travel from the parking lot to the entrance of the Springfield Boys and Girls Club gym area. Uneven pavement leads to the concrete landing in front of the door. It appears that the pavement has been shaved down to create a makeshift curb cut, but it is very uneven.



A closer view of the pavement in the path of travel to the polling place entrance. The pavement is uneven and cracked in multiple places and lacks compliant curb cuts.



An accessible parking space and yellow striped access aisle leading to a curb in front of the polling place entrance. There is a yellow painted curb directly in front of the accessible parking space and no curb cut.



A closer view of the pavement and path of travel directly in front of the accessible parking space. There is a curb directly in front of the accessible parking spaces and the pavement is very broken and cracked in several places.



A side view of the accessible parking spaces located directly in front of the Springfield Boys and Girls club polling place entrance. The accessible parking spaces have a curb directly in front of the parking spaces, with no curb cuts.

Warwick Town Hall Photos



The path of travel to the Warwick Town Hall entrance. The pavement in the path of travel is patched and is not level. Behind the pavement is a staircase.



Entrance door to Warwick Town Hall. On the right side of the door there is a vertical door handle. The surveyor noted that the door handle was too high to be accessible.

Southeast

Polling Places Surveyed in the Southeast Region

Data from a total of 18 polling locations in the Southeast Massachusetts region were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators at Southeast Center for Independent Living (SECIL, the Independent Living Center that serves the southeastern part of the state) surveyed the following polling places in their service area:

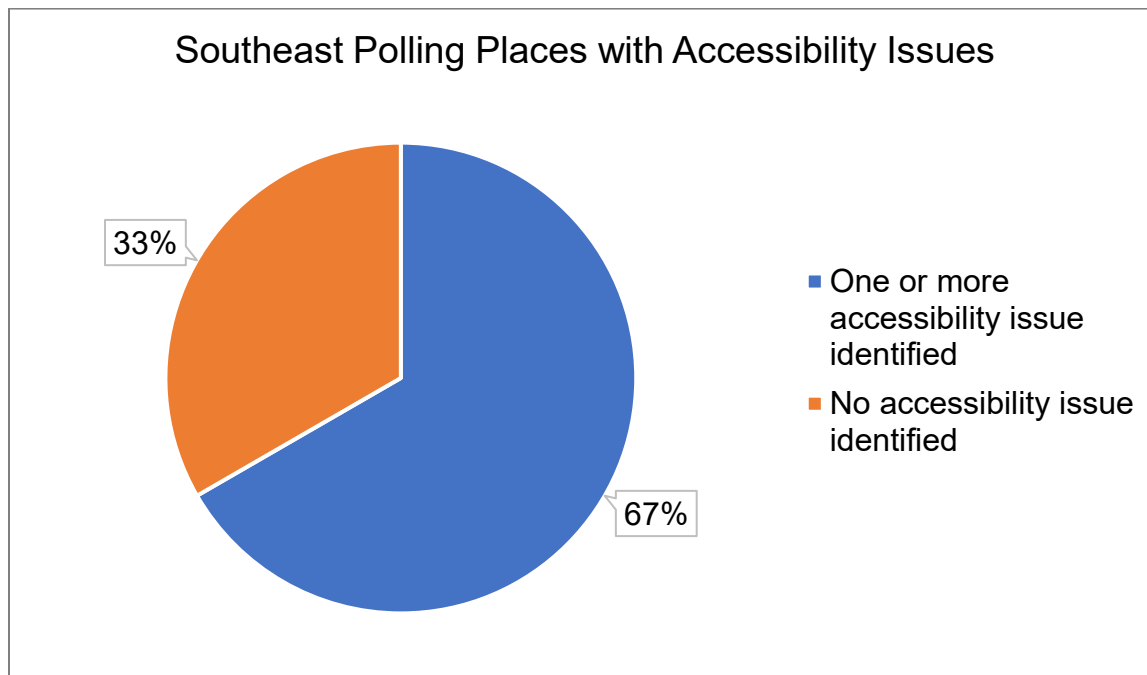
1. Bristol Community College Building G: 777 Elsbree St., Fall River
2. Candeias-Niagara Fire Station: Corner of Plymouth Ave. & Warren St., Fall River
3. Good Shepherd Parish: 1598 S. Main St., Fall River
4. Kuss Middle School: 53 Globe Mills Ave. (entrance on Shaw St.), Fall River
5. Mary L. Foncesca School: 160 N. Wall St., Fall River
6. The Bayberry Apartments: 42 W. Hill Road, New Bedford
7. Howland Green Library: 3 Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford
8. Vibra Hospital: 4499 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford
9. The Francis Farm Building: 27 Francis Farm Road, Rehoboth
10. South Dartmouth Council on Aging: 628 Dartmouth St., South Dartmouth
11. Joseph Case High School: 70 School St., Swansea
12. Memorial Town Hall: 54 Marion Road, Wareham
13. Briggs Road Fire Station: 85 Briggs Road, Westport
14. Former Westport High School: 19 Main Road, Westport
15. Our Lady of Grace Hall: 569 Sanford Road, Westport
16. Town Hall Annex: 856 Main Road, Westport

A collaborator at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP surveyed the following locations:

1. Indian Brook School: 1181 State Road, Plymouth
2. South Elementary School: 178 Bourne Road, Plymouth

Southeast Region Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 15: Southeast Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

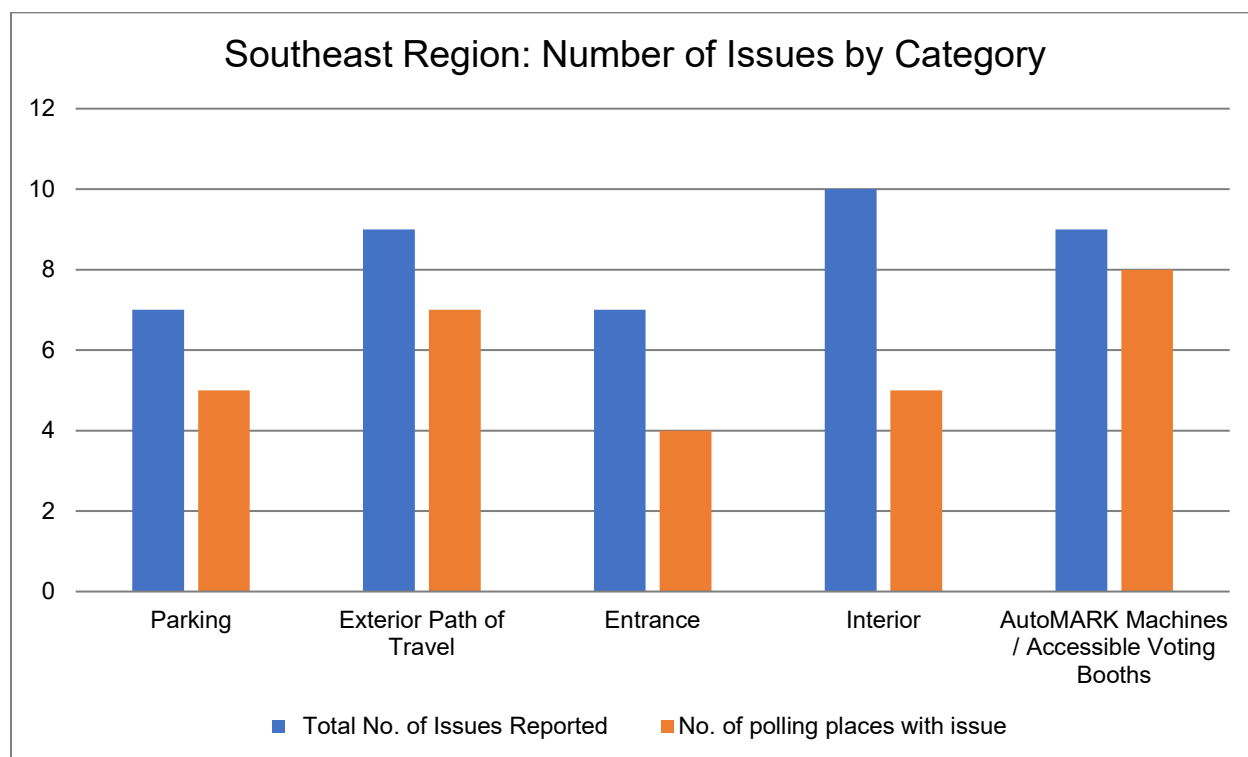


67% of polling places surveyed in the Southeast region had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 18 polling places surveyed by DLC and our collaborators across the Southeast region, surveyors identified 12 polling places (67%) with at least one accessibility issue. Six polling places (33%) did not have any accessibility issues reported by surveyors.

The polling place with the highest number of issues in the Southeast region was the Bayberry Apartments in New Bedford, where there were nine accessibility concerns. Polling places in the Southeast region had an average of 2.3 accessibility issues.

Chart 16: Southeast Region: Total Number of Issues by Category



47% of polling places in the Southeast region had issues with the AutoMARK machine.

A very common area of concern for Southeast polling locations was the AutoMARK machine, with nine issues reported at eight (47%) polling locations.

Most commonly, surveyors reported that the AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and its screen was easily visible to passersby (seven locations).

At one location, the headset for the AutoMARK was broken, a concern for voters needing the audio component of the AutoMARK to vote privately and independently. At another location, the polling place warden reported to a surveyor that they had not tested the AutoMARK machine prior to polls opening and that they would not have the time to do so.

42% of polling places in the Southeast region had issues with their exterior paths of travel.

Another frequent area of concern was the exterior path of travel, with nine exterior issues reported across seven (42%) polling places.

At six polling places, surveyors reported that there was no signage directing voters to the accessible entrance. At three polling locations, the exterior path of travel

surface was uneven and interrupted by abrupt changes in level, often due to steep inclines or cracked pavement.

28% of polling places in the Southeast region had interior path of travel issues.

Auditors reported ten issues with the interiors of five (28%) polling locations.

Most commonly, surveyors reported that sample ballots and voting information were not posted in polling locations or were not posted accessibly (four locations). At three polling locations, surveyors noted that the voting area inside of the polling place was very narrow and a potential barrier for voters using mobility.

Surveyors at two polling places observed that the area where the voting line was located was very narrow and would be difficult for wheelchair/other mobility device users to navigate.

Lastly, at one polling place, there was a stairlift that would need to be rung for assistance, and a lack of signage directing voters on how to accessibly get to the voting area.

28% of polling places in the Southeast region had parking issues.

Seven parking issues were identified at five (28%) polling locations across the Southeast region.

The most common parking issues were that accessible parking spaces were located far from the entrance to the voting area (three locations) and that there was an insufficient number of accessible parking spaces (three locations).

At one polling place (Bristol Community College), surveyors noted that the parking lot where accessible parking was located had a time limit, creating potential concern for voters needing more time to vote. At this same location, the college was offering golf carts to escort voters from the parking lot to the polling site; however, this was not an accessible option for all voters (for example, wheelchair users).

39% of polling places in the Southeast region had entrance issues.

Surveyors identified a total of seven issues with entrances across four (39%) polling sites.

At two polling places, entrances lacked accessible hardware that could be opened independently with a closed fist. Two polling locations had entrance areas that were too narrow, a barrier to voters using mobility devices.

Other miscellaneous issues included accessible entrances being locked during voting hours (one location), the automatic door opener not functioning upon the surveyor's arrival (one location), and the entrance into the polling location being interrupted by rugs which would be difficult for voters to navigate (one location).

Table 13: Southeast: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Bristol Community College Building G, Fall River Ward 8 Precincts B & C, Ward 9 Precinct A	4
Candeias-Niagara Fire Station, Fall River Ward 2 Precinct C, Ward 5 Precinct A	1
Good Shepherd Parish, Fall River Ward 3 Precincts A & B	7
Kuss Middle School, Fall River Ward 3 Precinct C, Ward 4 Precinct A	0
Mary L. Foncesca School, Fall River Ward 5 Precinct C, Ward 8 Precinct A	0
The Bayberry Apartments, New Bedford Ward 3 Precinct F	9
Howland Green Library, New Bedford Ward 6 Precinct D	2
Vibra Hospital, New Bedford Ward 1 Precinct D	0
Indian Brook School, Plymouth Precincts 7 & 14	0
South Elementary School, Plymouth Precincts 9, 12, 16, & 17	1
The Francis Farm Building, Rehoboth	0
South Dartmouth Council on Aging, Dartmouth Precincts 6 & 9	1
Joseph Case High School, Swansea	0
Memorial Town Hall, Wareham Precincts 1 & 6	2
Briggs Road Fire Station, Westport Precinct D	4
Former Westport High School, Westport Precinct E	6
Our Lady of Grace Hall, Westport Precinct A	1
Town Hall Annex, Westport Precinct B	4

Table 14: Southeast: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Bristol Community College Building G, Fall River Ward 8 Precincts B & C, Ward 9 Precinct A	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance. Surveyors noted difficulty in finding the building where voting was taking place.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 Signage should direct voters to the building where voting is taking place. If the main entrance to the polling location is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Parking	2.1 The parking lot had a fifteen-minute time limit and was reserved for accessible parking only.	950 CMR 51.02(2); Northeast ADA Center	2.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one of 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible. The accessible parking spaces should not have time restrictions on voting day. Time restrictions on accessible spaces during regular business hours are only allowed if the same time limits are imposed on the entire parking lot (refer to guidance from the Northeast ADA Center).
		2.2 The parking lot was a far distance from the building where voting was taking place. Golf carts were available; however, this is not an accessible option for all voters.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(c); 521 CMR 23.3	2.2 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters. If there is no parking lot available on the premises of the polling place, at least one street parking space in front of the polling place should be temporarily reserved for voters with disabilities.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Bristol Community College Building G	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK was not privately located. While a privacy shield was provided, the screen faced the path of travel and was still easily visible to passersby.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of the view of other voters, while ensuring there is 60-inch diameter turnaround space at the accessible voting machine.
Candeias-Niagara Fire Station, Fall River Ward 2 Precinct C, Ward 5 Precinct A	1. Parking	1.1 No accessible parking spaces were provided in the parking area closest to the fire station, creating a longer path of travel for people with disabilities.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
Good Shepherd Parish, Fall River Ward 3 Precincts A & B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 If the main entrance to the polling location is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Entrance	2.1 There is no accessible hardware on the door.	950 CMR 51.02(3)	2.1 Lever handles or accessible hardware should be provided on doors. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
		2.2 The entrance doorway is very narrow (less than 32 inches wide).	950 CMR 51.02 (3)(c)	2.2 Doorways should be at least 32 inches clear width, with 60 inches of space on interior and exterior sides.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Good Shepherd Parish		2.3 The floor near the entry doorway was covered in rugs that could be easily tripped over or difficult for wheelchair users to navigate.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(b)	2.3 The accessible entrance and route should be level and unobstructed. The path of travel should be uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
	3. Interior	3.1 The accessible route is narrow and does not have an area that is wide enough for turnaround space.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		3.2 The voting line was arranged in a way that posed a barrier for people using mobility devices/the area where the line was located was very narrow.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.2 The voting line should be arranged accessibly so that the accessible route to the voting area is at least 36 inches wide in most places.
		3.3 Sample ballots and voting information were not posted accessibly.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.3 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that anyone, including wheelchair users, can view them.
Kuss Middle School, Fall River Ward 3 Precinct C, Ward 4 Precinct A	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Mary L. Foncesca School, Fall River Ward 5 Precinct C, Ward 8 Precinct A	No issues reported	--	--	--
The Bayberry Apartments, New Bedford Ward 3 Precinct F	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel is not a common, continuous surface and is interrupted by changes in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be common, continuous, and uninterrupted by abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.
		1.2 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.2 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Parking	2.1 The only accessible parking spaces in the parking lot appeared to be reserved for residents. None of the on-street parking spaces were designated as accessible.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The automatic door opener was not functioning on voting day.	950 CMR 51.02(3); 521 CMR 26.8.1	3.1 The force to open an exterior door should be no greater than fifteen pounds. Doors with electric door openers should be in working order on election day. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
The Bayberry Apartments		3.2 The accessible entrance was locked, and the surveyor noted that a key card may have been required for the door to open.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	3.2 The accessible entrance should be unlocked and capable of being operated without assistance during the hours the polling place is open.
	4. Interior	4.1 The polling place's interior had very limited space.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	4.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		4.2 No voting information/sample ballots were posted.	950 CMR 53.02(4)	4.2 Three specimen ballots, "Instruction to Voters" cards, and "Penalties Upon Voter" cards should be posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place but outside the guard rail. Voting information and sample ballots should be posted at a height no greater than 48 inches above the floor. Sample ballots/voting information should be posted in the accessible path of travel where it is visible to all voters.
	5. AutoMARK	5.1 The AutoMARK's headset was broken.	52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(3)(A)	5.1 Headphones should be provided at the AutoMARK machine. Without headphones, people who are blind/low vision or need their ballots read aloud may not be able to read or mark their ballots independently.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
The Bayberry Apartments		5.2 The AutoMARK was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	5.2 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Howland Green Library, New Bedford Ward 6 Precinct D	1. Interior	1.1 The voting area was in a small meeting room, posing a potential barrier to wheelchair users.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Vibra Hospital, New Bedford Ward 1 Precinct D	No issues reported	--	--	--
Indian Brook School, Plymouth Precincts 7 & 14	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
South Elementary School, Plymouth Precincts 9, 12, 16, & 17	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The surveyor noted that the polling place warden stated that they had not tested the machine and did not have time to test it.	950 CMR 54.02	1.1 The AutoMARK machine should be tested and readily available to voters.
The Francis Farm Building, Rehoboth	No issues reported	--	--	--
South Dartmouth Council on Aging, Dartmouth Precincts 6 & 9	1. AutoMARK	1.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	1.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Joseph Case High School, Swansea	No issues reported	--	--	--
Memorial Town Hall, Wareham Precincts 1 & 6	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Briggs Road Fire Station, Westport Precinct D	1. Entrance	1.1 The temporary ramp is very narrow, and there is limited space for wheelchair users to enter.	950 CMR 51.02(4)	1.1 Ramps should be at least 48 inches wide, with a level landing of at least 60 inches at each section of the ramp. If the ramp changes direction, a level landing of 60 inches x 60 inches should be provided.
Briggs Road Fire Station	2. Interior	2.1 The voting line was arranged in a way that created a barrier to people using mobility devices.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	2.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
		2.2 One of the sample ballots was posted inaccessibly, higher than 48 inches above the ground.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	2.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy shield was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Former Westport High School, Westport Precinct E	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The exterior path of travel from the parking area is long and, on a hill/incline.	950 CMR 51.02(1); 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route – exterior or interior – has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Former Westport High School		1.2 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	1.2 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	2. Parking	2.1 Accessible parking spaces were located further from the accessible entrance than standard parking spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 521 CMR 23.3	2.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
		2.2 The parking lot had an insufficient number of accessible parking spaces.	950 CMR 51.02(2)(a)	2.2 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible.
	3. Entrance	3.1 The entrance doors did not have accessible hardware and could not be opened independently with a closed fist.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(c)	3.1 Lever handles or accessible hardware should be provided on doors. Alternatively, doors should be propped open on election day, poll workers should be available to assist at the entrance, or a doorbell should be made available to alert poll workers that someone needs assistance entering.
	4. AutoMARK	4.1 The AutoMARK machine was not privately located, and no privacy screen was provided.	52 U.S.C. §21081	4.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Our Lady of Grace Hall, Westport Precinct A	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel is not a common continuous surface.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
Town Hall Annex, Westport Precinct B	1. Parking	1.1 Some of the accessible parking spaces, including the only van accessible parking space, were located uphill from the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a); 521 CMR 23.3	1.1 Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to the accessible path of travel and accessible entrance. The path of travel should be the same or a substantially similar distance for nondisabled and disabled voters.
	2. Exterior Path of Travel	2.1 No signage directed voters to the accessible entrance.	950 CMR 51.02(3)(a)	2.1 If the main entrance is not accessible, signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance.
	3. Interior	3.1 Upon entering the main entrance at the front of the building, there was a stairlift which had to be rung for assistance. There was limited signage instructing voters inside the polling place.	950 CMR 51.02 (5)	3.1 Signage should direct voters to the accessible entrance/path of travel.
		3.2 Sample ballots and voting information were posted on a wall near a doorway, partially obstructed from view when there was a line.	950 CMR 51.02(6)(b)	3.2 Sample ballots and voting information should be posted no higher than 48 inches above the ground and unobstructed so that any voter, including wheelchair users, can view them.

Worcester County

Polling Places Surveyed in the Worcester Region

Data from a total of 14 polling locations were collected across the Worcester region were collected during the 2024 General Election cycle.

Collaborators from the Center for Living and Working (the Independent Living Center serving the Worcester County region) audited ten polling sites in the city of Worcester for accessibility:

1. Addison Apartments: 6 Addison St., Worcester
2. American Legion East Side: 326 Plantation St., Worcester
3. Emmanuel Lutheran Church: 200 Greenwood St., Worcester
4. Friendly House Community Center: 36 Wall St., Worcester
5. GBV Multipurpose Building: 180 Constitution Ave., Worcester
6. Lincoln VLG Tenant Association: 116 Country Club Road, Worcester
7. Living World Church: 30 Tyler Prentice Road, Worcester
8. Market 32 Price Chopper: 72 Pullman St., Worcester
9. Salem Covenant Church: 215 Mountain St., Worcester
10. South Worcester Neighborhood Center: 47 Camp St., Worcester

One Disability Law Center staff member surveyed three polling sites in Worcester County for accessibility:

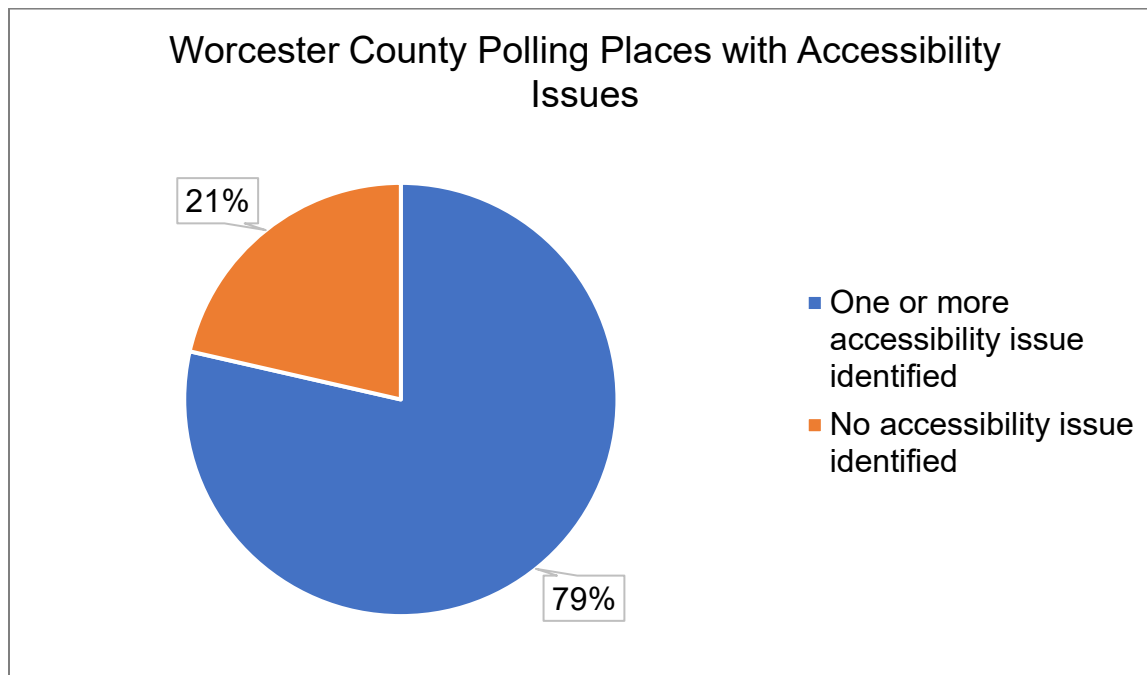
1. Rollstone Congregational Church: 199 Main St., Fitchburg
2. St. Joseph's Catholic Church: 46 Woodland St., Fitchburg
3. Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center: 366 Main St., Sturbridge

One collaborator at the MetroWest Center for Independent Living surveyed a polling site in the Worcester County region:

1. Webster Town Hall: 350 Main St., Webster

Worcester County Region Polling Place Accessibility Findings

Chart 17: Worcester County Polling Places with Accessibility Issues

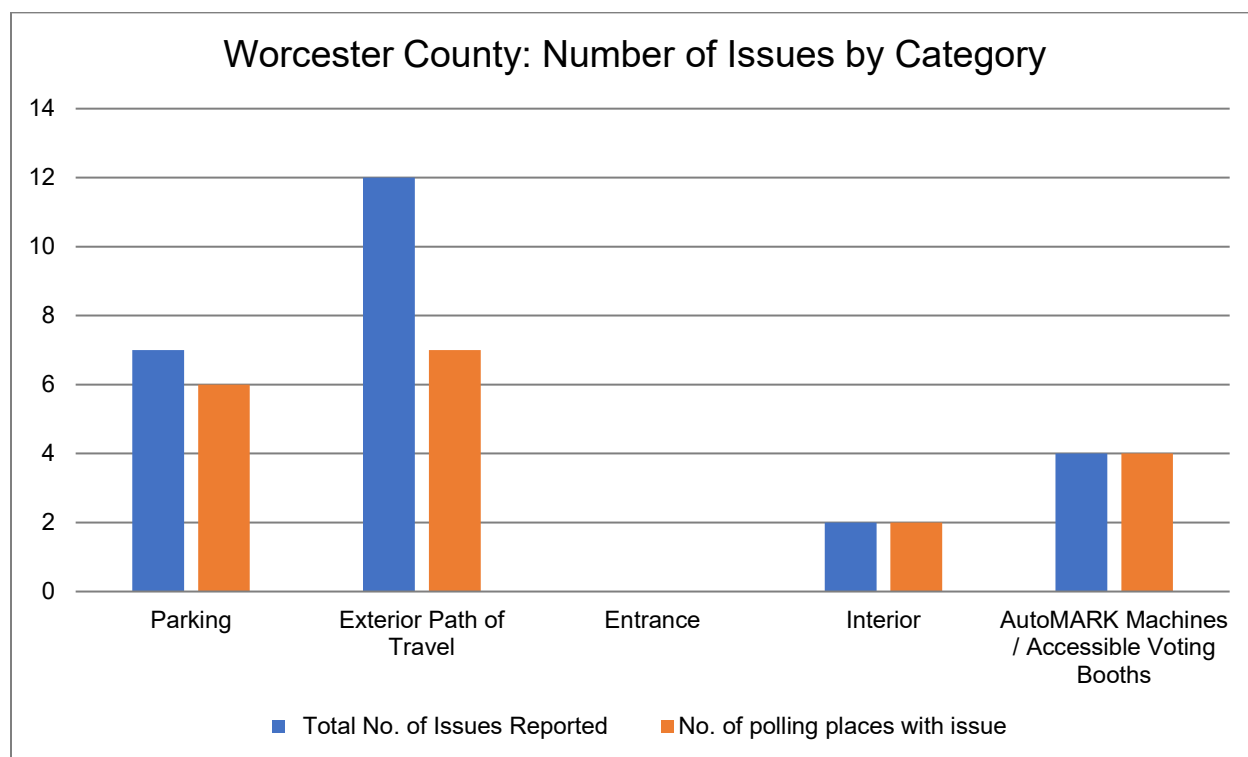


79% of polling places in Worcester County had at least one accessibility issue.

Out of 14 polling places surveyed in Worcester County, 11 (79%) had at least one accessibility concern. Three polling places had no accessibility concerns reported by surveyors.

The polling place with the highest number of accessibility concerns in the Worcester County area was the American Legion East Side in Worcester, where five accessibility issues were reported. On average, polling locations in Worcester County had an average of 1.8 issues.

Chart 18: Worcester County: Number of Issues by Category



50% of polling places in Worcester County had exterior path of travel issues.

In Worcester County, problems with the exterior paths of travel were most frequently reported, with 12 issues reported at seven (50%) locations.

Most commonly, the exterior path of travel was interrupted by changes in level greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch due to deteriorating pavement (four locations) or the slope of the path of travel being too steep for a wheelchair user to navigate comfortably (four locations).

Other miscellaneous issues included the lack of compliant curb cuts in the exterior path of travel (two locations), noncompliant handrails on an exterior ramp (one location), and a lack of traffic enforcement monitoring potentially dangerous traffic (one location).

43% of polling places in Worcester County had parking issues.

Parking issues were also commonly cited at Worcester County voting locations, with seven issues reported across six (43%) locations.

The most common parking concern was that some or all parking spaces lacked above-ground signage labeling accessible parking spaces (four locations).

Other issues included the above-ground signage being posted too low (one location), accessible parking spaces lacking clear high-contrast paint (one location), and the accessible parking spaces posted as reserved for tenants only.

29% of polling places in Worcester County had AutoMARK issues.

Problems with the AutoMARK machines were reported four times across four (29%) polling locations. At all four locations, auditors noted that the AutoMARK lacked sufficient privacy, and its screen was easily visible to passersby.

14% of polling places in Worcester County had issues with their interior paths of travel.

At two (14%) polling locations in Worcester County, surveyors observed that the interior path of travel and voting area was very small and would pose difficulty for wheelchair users to navigate.

None of the polling places surveyed in Worcester County had reported issues with their entrances.

Table 15: Worcester County: Total Number of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Number of Issues
Rollstone Congregational Church, Fitchburg Ward 5 Precincts A & B	1
St. Joseph's Church Hall, Fitchburg Ward 2 Precincts A & B	3
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge	3
Webster Town Hall, Webster	0
Addison Apartments, Worcester Ward 5 Precinct 1	3
American Legion East Side, Worcester Ward 4 Precincts 2, 2A, & 2B	5
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ward 6 Precinct 6	1
Friendly House Community Center, Worcester Ward 4 Precinct 1	3
GBV Multi Purpose Building, Worcester Ward 2 Precinct 5	2
Lincoln VLG. Tenant Association, Worcester Ward 2 Precinct 4	1
Living Word Church, Worcester Ward 3 Precincts 5 & 5A	1
Market 32 Price Chopper, Worcester Ward 1 Precinct 5	0
Salem Covenant Church, Worcester Ward 2 Precincts 1, 6, & 6A	0
South Worcester Neighborhood Center, Worcester Ward 8 Precinct 5	2

Table 16: Worcester County: Description of Issues by Polling Place

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Rollstone Congregational Church, Fitchburg Ward 5 Precincts A & B	1. Interior	1.1 The inside of the church was crowded and maneuvering a wheelchair may have been challenging in a crowded space.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	1.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
St. Joseph's Church Hall, Fitchburg Ward 2 Precincts A & B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The path of travel from accessible parking spaces is not the same distance for all entering the polling place due to the lack of compliant curb cuts and crosswalks leading directly from the parking lot across the street to the accessible entrance. The only curb cut is located 50 feet uphill from the parking lot, creating a longer path of travel for voters with disabilities.	950 CMR 51.02(2); 521 CMR 21	1.1 Curb cuts are required wherever an accessible route crosses a curb, at each corner of each intersection, located within the crosswalk, and/or the pedestrian path of travel (521 CMR 21.2.1). Proper curb cuts should be installed at intersections. Alternatively, temporary curb ramps may be installed for voting day.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
St. Joseph's Church Hall		1.2 The exterior path of travel from the accessible parking spaces/sidewalk is interrupted by abrupt changes in level. The entrance to the building is made inaccessible due to the slope of the street/sidewalk.	950 CMR 51.02(1); 521 CMR 22.3	1.2 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20 (521 CMR 22.3). If no accessible route to the accessible entrance can be found from the current parking lot across the street, one temporary accessible parking space may be installed. Temporary curb ramps may also be placed near accessible parking spaces/near the accessible path of travel if permanent compliant curb cuts cannot be installed at the sidewalk or crosswalks.
		1.3 Traffic enforcement on this one-way street is not monitored. The surveyor witnessed at least two vehicles driving the wrong way. Due to the lack of curb cuts and inaccessible sidewalks, the surveyor noted that crossing the road may be inaccessible and even unsafe for people with disabilities.	N/A	1.3 While traffic enforcement at polling places is not explicitly required by federal or state election laws, the path of travel to polling places should be made safe and accessible for people with disabilities.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The polling site's parking lot has signs of frost heaves and cracks in the pavement, interrupting the path of travel with abrupt changes greater than ½ inch. (See Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
		1.2 The sidewalk in the path of travel to the polling place's entrance contains a noncompliant curb cut where the sides are not properly flared. (See Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center Photos)	950 CMR 51.02(1); 521 CMR 21.00	1.2 A landing should be provided at the top of the curb cut which is at least 48 inches wide. The slope of the landing should not exceed 1:50 or 2 percent (521 CMR 21.6.1). The curb cuts should extend at least 24 inches with a maximum slope of 1:10 or 2 percent, so that the slope is curb and flared sides are blended (521 CMR 21.7).
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine lacked privacy and was placed close to the entrance, with no privacy barriers provided. The town clerk said they would stand with their back to the voter to block passersby from seeing the screen.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.
Webster Town Hall, Webster	No issues reported	--	--	--

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Addison Apartments, Worcester Ward 5 Precinct 1	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 There is a one-inch change in level where Addison Street transitions to the walkway leading to the community room where voting takes place.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. Parking	2.1 The only accessible parking spaces are tenant-only spaces. No street parking spaces are marked as accessible.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 If a parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one in 25 parking spaces, but not less than one, should be accessible. At least one in eight, but not less than one, accessible parking spaces should be van accessible. If no parking lot is available on the premises of the polling place, at least one on-street parking space should be temporarily designated accessible.
	3. Interior	3.1 The room with the voting terminals is very small, with a barely compliant accessible route.	950 CMR 51.02(5)(b)	3.1 The accessible route should be at least 36 inches wide in most places. The accessible route should have one area that is at least 48 inches wide which can be used as a turnaround space for people using mobility devices. Accessible voting booths and machines should have a 60-inch diameter turnaround space.
American Legion East Side, Worcester Ward 4 Precincts 2, 2A, & 2B	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The parking lot is in serious disrepair due to cracked pavement, creating abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
		1.2 Parts of the ramp leading from the parking lot to the entrance have noncompliant 1 inch x 4-inch deck wood mounted on top of the 2-inch x 4-inch ramp railing.	950 CMR 51.02(4)(a)	1.2 Ramps should contain two pairs of handrails along both sides that are round or oval and are set in pairs, one at a height between 34 and 38 inches and another between 18 and 20 inches.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
American Legion East Side	2. Parking	2.1 The accessible parking spaces were not marked clearly with high-contrast paint (the paint was very faded and not visible).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 High-contrast white or yellow paint should clearly mark the accessible parking spaces and their adjacent access aisles.
		2.2 There was only one noncompliant sign labeling the accessible parking spaces posted on the ramp railing. There should be 2-3 accessible parking spaces in this parking lot.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.2 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."
	3. AutoMARK	3.1 The room where the voting terminals were located was very small and though the AutoMARK had a privacy shield, it was too close to the other terminals to ensure privacy.	52 U.S.C. §21081	3.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space.
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ward 6 Precinct 6	1. Parking	1.1 There are five parallel parking spaces with no above-ground signage, only the International Symbol of Accessibility painted on the ground.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."
Friendly House Community Center, Worcester Ward 4 Precinct 1	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The sidewalk leading to the parking lot of Friendly House is on a hill with a steep incline, creating a potential barrier for voters with disabilities.	950 CMR 51.02(1); 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route - exterior or interior - has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Friendly House Community Center		1.2 The parking lot and walkway to the voting entrance are in serious disrepair, with cracks and changes in level greater than ½ inch.	950 CMR 51.02(1)	1.2 The path of travel should be clear, unobstructed, and have a common continuous surface without abrupt changes in level more than ½ inch.
	2. Parking	2.1 There are temporary portable accessible parking signs that are too low (below five feet above the ground).	950 CMR 51.02(2)	2.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words “Van Accessible.”
GBV Multi Purpose Building, Worcester Ward 2 Precinct 5	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The slope of the walkway is too steep and difficult to navigate. The surveyor noted that there is an alternate route to the voting area that is easier to navigate and could be used instead.	950 CMR 51.02(1), 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route - exterior or interior - has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20.
	2. AutoMARK	2.1 The AutoMARK machine is not privately located.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space. A privacy shield should be available for voters where there is a lack of privacy from the path of travel or other voters.

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
Lincoln VLG. Tenant Association, Worcester Ward 2 Precinct 4	1. Exterior Path of Travel	1.1 The walkway leading from the parking lot to the entrance has a questionable running slope that would be difficult for wheelchair users to navigate.	950 CMR 51.02(1), 521 CMR 22.3	1.1 The path of travel to the polling place should have a continuous common surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than ½ inch. If any part of the accessible route - exterior or interior - has a slope greater than 1:20, it is considered a ramp and must meet the requirements for ramps unless the slope of the natural topography exceeds 1:20.
Living Word Church, Worcester Ward 3 Precincts 5 & 5A	1. Parking	1.1 There are a total of 12 accessible parking spaces, but only three permanently mounted above ground signs. The remaining accessible parking spaces only have the International Symbol of Accessibility painted on the ground.	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."
Market 32 Price Chopper, Worcester Ward 1 Precinct 5	No issues reported	--	--	--
Salem Covenant Church, Worcester Ward 2 Precincts 1, 6, & 6A	No issues reported	--	--	--
South Worcester Neighborhood Center, Worcester Ward 8 Precinct 5	1. Parking	1.1 Van accessible parking spaces are lacking above-ground signage that reads "Van accessible."	950 CMR 51.02(2)	1.1 Each accessible parking space/pair of accessible spaces should be identified by a sign between five and eight feet above the ground containing the International Symbol of Accessibility. Van accessible parking spaces should be identified by signage containing the words "Van Accessible."

Polling Place, Municipality	Area(s) of Concern	Issue(s) Identified	Law(s) /Regulation(s)	Suggestion(s)
South Worcester Neighborhood Center	2. AutoMARK	2.1 Although the AutoMARK has a privacy shield, it is not privately located and can be easily viewed by other voters.	52 U.S.C. §21081	2.1 The AutoMARK should have as much privacy as possible: the screen should face away from the path of travel and be out of view of other voters while ensuring 60 inches of turnaround space.

Photos from Worcester County Polling Places

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Fitchburg



A curb where the sidewalk meets a crosswalk. The curb has a step up of roughly a few inches and lacks a curb cut/ramp.



Two accessible parking spaces across the street from Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. The parking spaces have a stone wall directly in front of them and lack a curb cut to the sidewalk.



The path of travel from the viewpoint of the crosswalk. The sidewalk slopes downhill from the crosswalk, leading to the accessible entrance which is about halfway down the hill. The slope of the path of travel and lack of curb cuts leading to the sidewalk pose barriers for disabled voters.



The crosswalk in the path of travel to the polling place. The crosswalk nearest to the parking lot has a curb a few inches high and lacks a curb cut/ramp.



The intersection of two crosswalks. There is no curb cut, though it appears that the curb has been shaved down. The curb and pavement near the intersecting sidewalks are broken or cracked in some areas.

Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center Photos



A raised patch of pavement leading to the Sturbridge Host Hotel. The pavement is raised by at least two inches, interrupting the path of travel.



The path of travel leading to the Sturbridge Host Hotel. The sidewalk curb is lined with yellow paint marking the curb and a curb cut. The area where the sidewalk and pavement meet have some cracks, and the curb cut appears to be unmarked by any paint or tactile pavement.



Sidewalk leading to the Sturbridge Post Hotel with a makeshift curb cut. The threshold between the curb cut and parking lot interrupts the path of travel.

Appendix

Polling Place Accessibility Survey Questions

Parking Survey Questions

1. The required number of handicapped parking spaces is provided as follows:

Total # of parking spaces	# of HPV spaces required
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	7
301 - 400	8
401 - 500	9
501 - 1,000	2% of total 1,001 and over 20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000
2. For parking lots striped prior to 9/1/1996:
 - a. The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 4-foot access aisle which is painted or striped yellow. The parking lot is reasonably lit.
 - b. The handicapped parking spaces are identified by a sign at each space or pair of spaces containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground.
3. For parking lots striped after 9/1/1996:
 - a. The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 5-foot access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonably lit.
 - b. Is there at least one "van accessible" space? (One of every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible, but no less than one.) This space is 8 feet wide and has an adjacent 8-foot-wide access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonably lit.
 - c. Each handicapped parking space is identified by a sign containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above ground. Van accessible spaces shall include the words "Van Accessible."
4. Any sidewalk provided at the handicapped parking spaces has a curb cut (sidewalk ramp), with a slope no greater than 1:12 (8.3%), at each space or pair of spaces.

5. If no parking lot is available, there is at least one on-street parking space which is at least temporarily designated as a handicapped parking space during the election in front of the polling place.

Exterior Path of Travel Survey Questions

1. The paths of travel to the polling place from the parking lot and from the street are clear, reasonably lit, and unobstructed.
2. The paths have continuous common surfaces, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
3. The path of travel is the same or a substantially similar distance for all persons entering the polling place.
4. Curb cuts provided have a center running slope no greater than 8.3% (2":24")

Exterior Ramp Questions

1. If the entrance has stairs, is there either a permanent or portable ramp?
2. If permanent, the ramp has a slope no steeper than 1:12 (8.3%).
3. The ramp is at least 48 inches wide.
4. The ramp has two pairs of handrails along both sides that are round or oval and are set in pairs, one at a height between 34 and 38 inches and a lower one at a height between 18 and 20 inches.
5. If the ramp is portable, it is as close to 1:12 (8.3%) as possible, and either handrails or wheel guards at least two inches high on both sides are provided.

Entrance Survey Questions

1. At least one entrance to the building is accessible.
2. The approach to the accessible entrance is a paved walk or ramp with a non-slip surface uninterrupted by steps or changes in level greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. There is a level space 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.
3. Lever handles or other accessible hardware are provided on doors, so that they may be operated with a closed fist.
4. Doorways are at least 32 inches clear width. Door thresholds are no higher than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the floor.
5. If the accessible entrance is not the main entrance, it is unlocked and able to be used without assistance during the same hours as the main entrance.

Interior Survey Questions

1. All interior doors, approaches, and ramps comply with the ramp and entrance questions above.
2. An accessible route which provides a continuous unobstructed path at least 36 inches wide is maintained inside the polling place and shall coincide with the route for the general public.

3. Does the accessible route have at least one area that's at least 48 inches wide which can be used for turnaround space?
4. A sample ballot has been posted on the wall no higher than 48 inches above the floor.
5. Is voting information posted in an area where everyone, including voters using a wheelchair, can see it without being blocked by a barrier such as a line of voters?
6. Has the voting line been arranged so it does not create a barrier that someone using a mobility device has to get around?

AutoMARK/Accessible Voting Booths Survey Questions

1. At least one marking shelf provides a clear space under it at least 30 inches wide, at least 27 inches clear to the underside, and no more than 32 inches high to the top.
2. There is at least one AutoMARK machine that is readily available and accessible for use by voters.
3. Staff have been trained on the AutoMARK machine and understand who may use the machine (anyone can ask to use it).
4. An AutoMARK privacy shield is available for use. / The location of the AutoMARK machine affords the voter the same privacy that non-disabled voters are afforded.