



Native American Voters and Disability Access

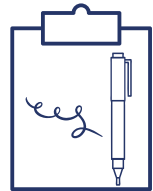
Native American voters face multiple barriers to participating in elections, from language access issues to registering to vote at nontraditional addresses. Additionally, Native Americans have the highest rate of disability among all American ethnicities and racial groups, with nearly 1 in 4 of Native Americans having a disability. The intersection of these challenges can make voting especially challenging among Native American communities. The topics below discuss these challenges and offer solutions to promote equitable access to the ballot.

Language Access



- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires election officials provide bilingual registration, election materials, and personal assistance to language minorities in covered jurisdictions that have been historically excluded from the political process including certain Native American Languages.
- Language access requires verbal assistance and auditory notifications for Native Americans whose language is unwritten.
- The EAC has created voter registration forms in Native languages to assist election officials and voters. These forms are available here: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>

Voter Registration



- Nontraditional addresses, non-acceptance of tribal identification, and lack of access to broadband are all barriers for Native Americans when registering to vote.
- The EAC published guidance on best practices for accessible voter registration for online, in person, and government agency registration.

For more information about Accessible Voter Registration, visit:

https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/bestpractices/Accessibility_Checklist_Voter_Registration.pdf

Polling Places



- Election officials should consult and coordinate with tribal governments to make polling places accessible. Some facilities considerations include:
 - Paving parking lots,
 - Modifying ramps, and
 - Accessible signage.

Ballot Access



- Tribal lands may be in very remote geographical areas and are subject to extreme weather conditions.
- Mail-in voting is increasing in use and is commonly offered as an alternative to inaccessible polling places. However, mail voting is often inaccessible for voters with disabilities or who need language assistance.
- It is a best practice for election officials to coordinate with tribal governments to establish polling places on tribal lands.

For the full report *Voting Access for Native Americans*, visit:

<https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/voting-access-native-americans-case-studies-best-practices>

EAC | Helping America Vote