

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

**Self Advocates Becoming
Empowered (SABE)
National Technical Assistance
Center for Voting and Cognitive
Access**



*Having a
disability is
not the
problem with
voting, it is
having the
accessible
equipment,
accessible
locations, and
respect to do
so!*

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Ohio, Oklahoma, Arizona, Georgia Protection and Advocacy organizations and the Election Day Interviewers: People First of Atlanta, People First of Athens (GA), People First of Stevens (GA), People First of Fitzgerald (GA), Brady Sellet (OH), Diana Mairose (OH), James Harley (OH), Marvin Moss (OH), Kelisa White (OH), Bill Roe (OH), Sharon Hannon (OH), Kat Lyons (OH), Jan Hermans (OH), Patty McMahn (OH), Sarah Bitter (OH), Jim Steffy (OH), Mike Fasanella (OH,)John Romer (OH), Amy Sercey (OH) Essie Pederson (OH), Nancy Ward (OK), Dee Banta (OK), Teresa Moore (AZ), Cheri (GA) , Tia Nelis(IL), Patrice McHale (OH), Juliaña Huerena (AZ), John Britton (AZ, Vicki Wrey (CO), Ken Dwenger(CO) and Hannah Bowen (OR).

April 1, 2013

Essie Pederson, Co-Director

**SABE National Technical Assistance Center for Voting
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POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Even with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, people with disabilities faced incredible barriers to casting ballots. Issues of getting to and into the polling places, how to use the ballots, not being able to read or see the ballots, not being able to sign their name, and prejudiced beliefs that having a disability it means you cannot make your own decisions are just a few of these barriers. It was a proud moment in our history when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in the presence of leaders who fought so hard for equality and the right to vote and again when President Bush signed the ADA in the presence of hundreds of people with disabilities. But, it was the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002, which set forth regulations that all elections must be held in accessible locations; using ballots that encouraged people to vote rather than discouraged that got more people voting. Now more and more people with disabilities are voting because of acceptance and accessibility.



President Johnson shakes the hand of Martin Luther King, Jr. after signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law.

There has been very little information collected about the voting experiences of voters with developmental disabilities. There are many personal stories about experiences but very little information about the group as a whole. Congress needs this type of information in order to continue to support the Help America Vote Act. This data can also be useful to inform government/agency officials at all levels, disability advocacy agencies, and the media about the voting

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

experiences of individuals with disabilities on Election Day. We hope that this Election Day Checklist will be a first step to collecting this essential information.

APPROACH

The approach used to collect this Election Day information was an easy to use and understand checklist developed for people with disabilities to complete about their Election Day experiences. The checklist was developed by Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) for Voting and Cognitive Access along with the National Disabilities Right Network (NDRN) based upon Department of Justice (DOJ) accessibility guidelines. The Cincinnati UCEDD (University Center on Excellence and Developmental Disabilities) LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) trainees assisted Project Vote as part of their required leadership project as LEND trainees. The purpose of the checklist was to determine, from the voter's perspective, if they were able to cast a private and independent ballot on Election Day. Collecting information from people with disabilities, especially people with cognitive disabilities can require a more personalized approach to collecting information. For purposes of this report references to SABE's NTAC for Voting and Cognitive Access will be called Project Vote.

The approach used by Project Vote was a checklist asking for information about the voters experiences when voting, including polling place accessibility.



First, with the assistance of NDRN, (National Disability Rights Network), Project Vote reviewed the DOJ accessibility requirements as the basis for their accessibility questions. The questions were placed in a yes or no checklist format with opportunities for voters to make further comments on their answer. The Checklist was then piloted by Project Vote Team members to find difficult to understand or

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

confusing questions. The final Checklists were used by trained volunteers with disabilities interviewing voters with disabilities at their polling locations.

The Project Vote Team had seven weeks from written approval for funding from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to Election Day; to develop the survey, recruit and train interviewers from Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organizations and self advocacy groups, and assign interviewers to polling locations. A series of three conference calls were convened by NDRN and Project Vote to prepare for Election Day activities and to inform the P&A's of Project Vote's plan. Because of the short window of time to complete the project, it was decided that P&A's and self advocacy groups from the state's represented by Project Vote staff and P&A's already working with the project would be recruited first. On the conference calls the Election Day Checklist and Procedures were explained to P&A's asking for their involvement and support. The states who partnered with Project Vote to implement the Election Day Checklist were Ohio, Georgia, Arizona, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado and ten other states where SABE Board Members lived. The lessons learned from using the Checklist from the interviewers will be used to improve the process of future Election Day Checklists. A copy of the Election Day Checklist is in Attachment A and the revised checklist will be discussed later in this report.

STRATEGY

To increase the number of people with disabilities to be interviewed, the information from the Election Day Checklist was collected three ways: 1) at polling place locations; 2) at locations where large groups of people with disabilities gather; and 3) by telephone interviews. Interviews were conducted by people with disabilities matched with a community volunteer of their choice. Guidelines were developed by the Ohio Project Vote team for each state's partners (P&A's and self-advocacy groups) to use to prepare for Election Day (Attachment B).

Checklists were collected for one week, post-election day, and then submitted to SABE Project Vote. The goal was to collect a minimum of 100 checklists.

The total number of Checklists collected was 164.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Interviewing people with disabilities at polling locations was very difficult because of legal restrictions (distance from entrance, i.e. 75 feet, etc.); having more than one exit from the polling location; etc. Preliminary comments from the interviewers were that when people were interviewed at the polling location they received very specific and helpful information but getting voters to be interviewed was challenging. The Project Vote team did not want to assume people had a disability; they chose to have people “self-select”. Therefore, all voters were asked: “Hello, my name is ____, I am here today collecting information about the voting experiences of people with disabilities. Do you have a disability?” The voters interviewed did not seem offended by being asked the question this way.

Interviewers Comments About the Three Approaches Used:

1. Interviewing with voters at polling locations on Election Day: *very difficult to get voters to stop and talk but when voters agreed to be interviewed, they were happy to share their experiences.*
2. Meeting with groups of voter’s right after Election Day to complete the checklist: *this approach **worked the best** according to all national teams.*
3. Calling known voters with disabilities on the telephone to interview them about their experience within one week from Election Day: *voters were very cooperative when contacted but interviewers were not as confident that they were receiving accurate information.*

Factors Affecting Interviewing at Polling Locations

- Weather conditions.
- Polling locations changed without public awareness.



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Observations

When voter asked to use the accessible voting equipment, they were told no, they did not need it. (AZ)

When the number of people voting had to wait in long lines, some locations used the “zig-zag amusement park, airport line” approach. This was a great option but the line spaces were too narrow for people using a wheelchair. (GA)

Another voter asked to use the accessible equipment but was told by the poll workers that they did not know how to use the equipment. The Voter said he knew how to use the equipment, so he was able to vote. (AZ)

Accessibility Comments from Interviewers at Polling Locations

- Voters had to go over curb cuts or make a long detour to enter the building. (GA and AZ)
- Accessible parking places were not well marked, they had faded logo painted on the pavement but no pole sign designating the space. (OH)
- Privacy of one’s vote was questionable: when voter used a table with “privacy screens” they were too close together and located in an area that everyone in the room could read their ballot. (AZ and OH)
- When using a table to vote the space was too small to maneuver a 2-page ballot. (OH)
- Tables used by voters were too low for a person using a wheelchair. (OK)
- None of the voting booths were placed lower so a person using a wheelchair could vote using them. (OH, AZ, GA, OK, IL, CO)
- Voter overheard poll worker complaining about voters who use accessible equipment... “thank goodness they are not using **that** equipment”. (IL)

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

- Poll worker refused assistance to a person asking for help reading his ballot. He was told no, he had to get someone else. He was not offered the option of two officials representing each party to help or that he could use the accessible voting equipment. (OH)
- When voters with a sensory disability brought someone to assist them they were not asked to sign the papers that the voter authorized this person to assist them and the assistant did not sign a document that they would not influence the voter's vote. But, when a person with a cognitive disability did the same, the paperwork was required. (OH)
- The poll worker told the voter she could not have an assistant help her to vote because she did not look like she had a disability. (IL)
- When voters asked to use the accessible voting equipment, they were told no, they did not need it. (OH)
- Poll workers had problems finding people's names on the list. Person was told they could not vote but insisted his name was on list and the poll worker eventually found the name. (OH)
- Voter asked to use accessible equipment to vote independently but poll worker said no, he had a person with him they can help him without the equipment. (OK)
- Voter who was blind had to remind poll workers that he could hear fine and there was no need to speak loudly. (AZ)

A voter who was non-verbal and had a physical disability had his "right to vote" questioned by poll workers. (MI)

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

- Sidewalk was so narrow going to the entrance of the polling location, the voter was afraid she would fall off the sidewalk. (AZ)
- Poll worker questioned whether or not a voter who was non-verbal and had assistance was being used by the assistant to vote her way and not the individual's. (MI)
- The "ballot scanners" were blocked so people using a wheelchair could not scan their own ballots to secure the privacy of their vote. (OH)
- Poll Workers seemed better informed on how to handle questions about procedures like change of address, offering a person a chair to use while standing in line waiting to voting. (OH, AZ, GA, OK, IL, CO)

ELECTION DAY CHECKLIST

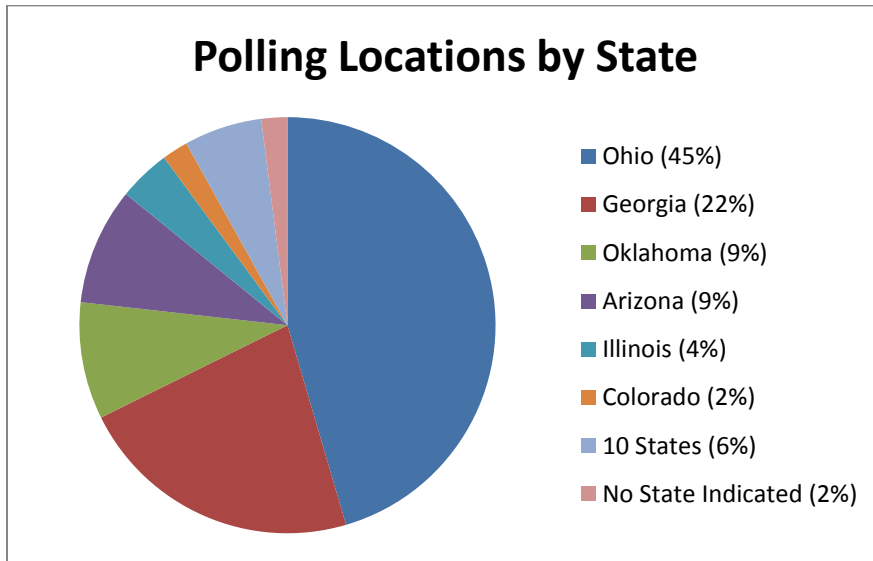
The Checklist was designed so people with developmental disabilities would be successful interviewing voters with disabilities. The questions asked were consistent with priorities identified by the DOJ but written for yes or no responses. The Checklist was reviewed by the interviewers after Election Day use to make changes or recommendation to improve it. In addition the Cincinnati UCEDD LEND trainees working with Project Vote made their own recommendations to improve the quality of data collected. The revised Election Day Checklist is provided in Attachment C.

FINDINGS

Trainees from the Cincinnati UCEDD LEND program assisted Project Vote with the compilation of the data collected from the Checklists. Chart 1 represents the percentage of Checklists completed in each participating state.

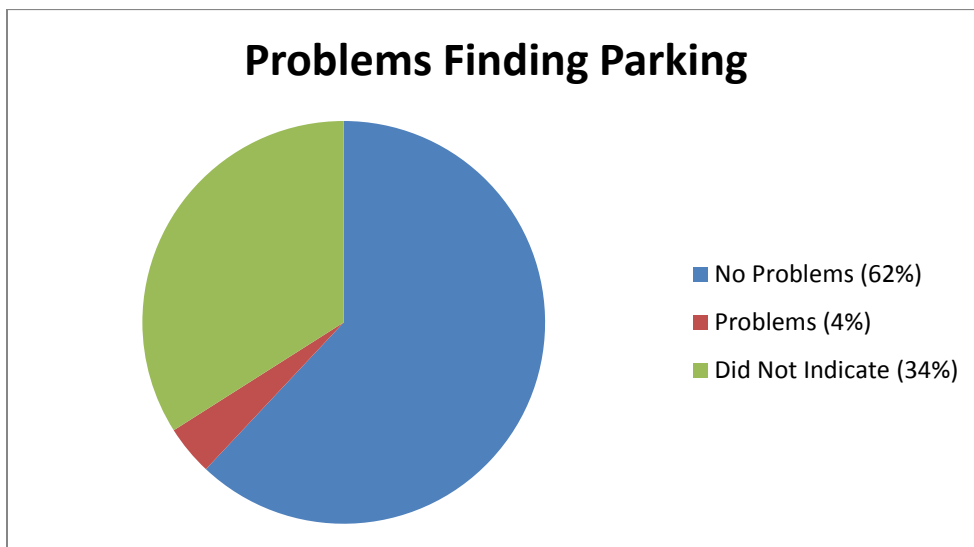
POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Chart 1



Ohio (43%), Georgia (22%) and Oklahoma (9%) Project Vote volunteers worked closely with their state P&A. It was difficult to get P&A involvement from each state because of the short timeline available to implement the project. The Arizona, Illinois and Colorado P&A's were aware of the project but could not assist due to short timelines. The remaining 10 states were where members of SABE's Board of Directors resided.

Chart 2



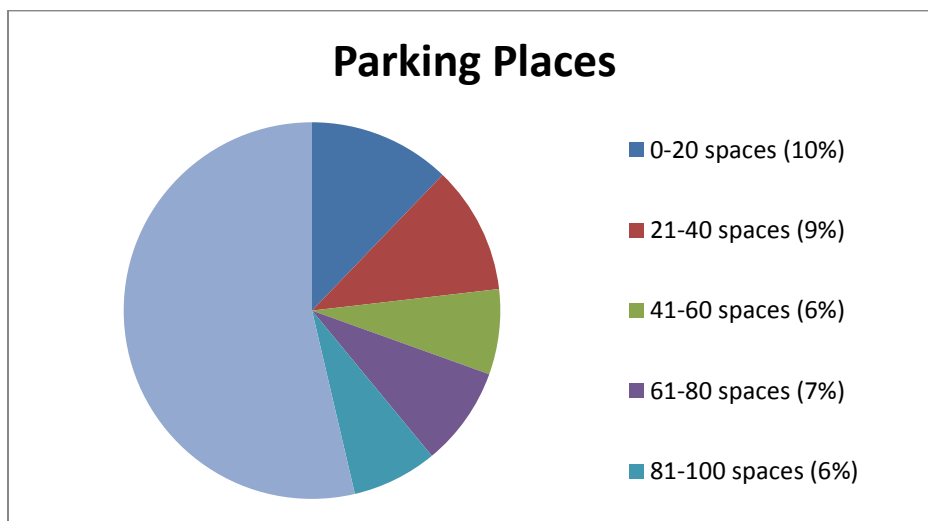
POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

The questions asked on the Election Day Checklist about number of “accessible parking spaces”, number of “total parking spaces”, and if there were “accessible spaces well marked”, were difficult for many voters interviewed to answer. Possible reasons for this was difficulty counting the number of spaces, the parking spaces wrapped around the building, sections of the parking lots were not accessible for interviewers to get to, and polling restrictions did not allow the interviewers to get close to the parking areas. Chart 2 shows that 62% of the people interviewed did not have any problems parking, 34% did not indicate, with the remaining 4% indicating problems. For the voters and interviewers able to respond to the parking questions refer to Chart 3.

A total of 66% of the voters were able to report a total number parking places; but they could not easily provide information on the number of accessible spaces within those percentages.

The parking questions asked were not easy for voters to answer because many of them do not drive, so they did not pay attention to parking issues.

Chart 3



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Some polling location parking lots did not have signs directing people to the accessible entrance or the signs were not located in a way voters could see. For example, some of these entrances were located in the back of the building, where a voter would not think of going unless they were informed ahead of time.

Several locations did have accessible parking spaces but they were not easy to locate because they were poorly marked, had no post signs, and had faded accessible logos on the pavement. Even if the voter found these accessible parking spaces they still could not enter the building because of steps.

When voters asked where the accessible entrance was for the accessible parking spaces, poll workers did not know. They had to ask the people who operated the bowling alley. (OH)



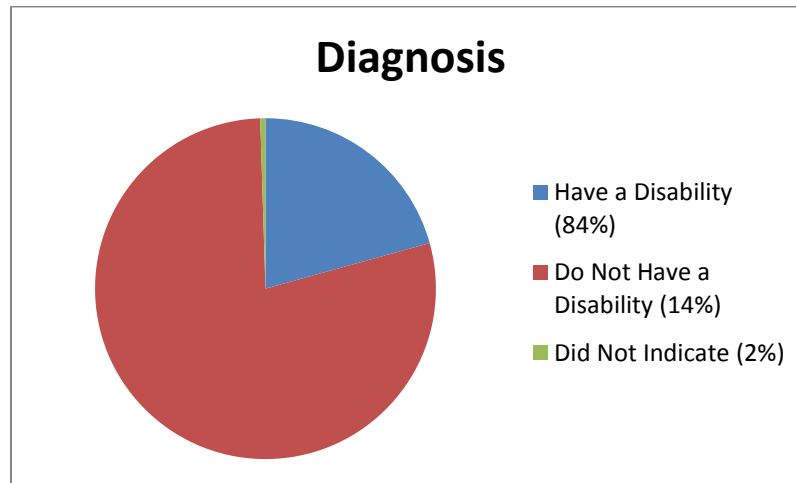
Voters with disabilities can be discouraged if election officials do not plan properly.

Eighty four percent (84%) of the voters interviewed were comfortable sharing whether they did or did not have a disability (Chart 4). Chart 5 specifies the various types of disabilities. The list of disabilities on the Checklist is the same labels used by the DOJ. Voters with mental or intellectual disabilities* are the largest disability group interviewed. Second would be voters with physical and

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

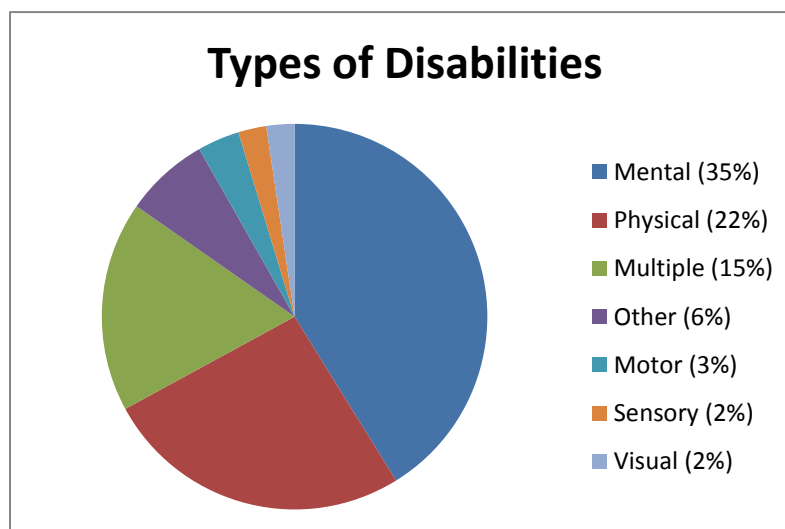
motor disabilities (25%) and third, voters with multiple disabilities being 15% of the total voters interviewed. The interviewers were able to interview people with a wide range of disabilities about their voting experiences.

Chart 4



**(The term mental is only used on this Checklist because the DOJ Guidelines do; Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) does NOT support the use of this term.)*

Chart 5



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Next the Checklist asked questions about the physicality of the Polling Locations. Three specific questions were asked: Problems entering the polling location (ease of people using a wheelchair to get in and out of the location), the slope of the ramp, and use of signage to find the voting area.

Twelve percent of the voters interviewed reported having problems entering the polling location (Chart 6). Many voters were stressed and discouraged by the time they entered the voting area because of how the location was so poorly marked for the accessible entrance. Problems like this make the thrill of voting one of distress. Fortunately 88% of the voters did not have problems entering their polling location.

Accessible entrances to the polling area were not marked. No signs directing people to the right entrance or where to go once inside. (OK)

Chart 6

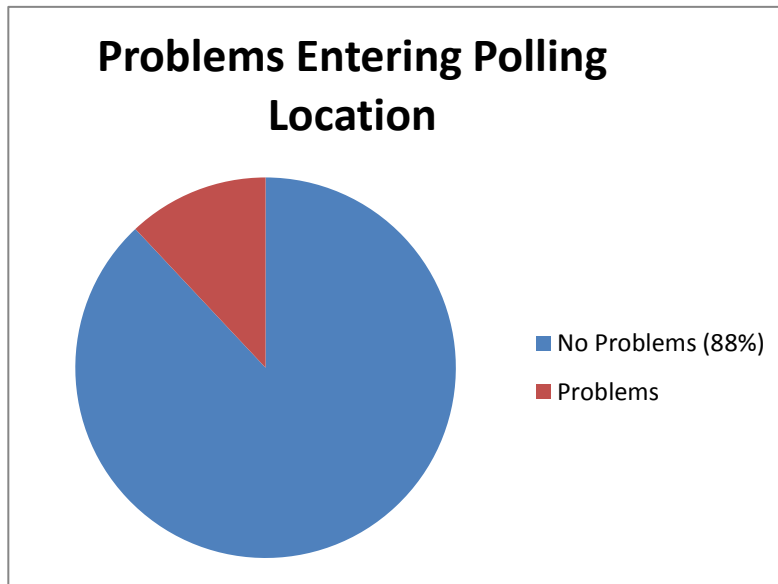


Chart 7 and Chart 8 reflect the percentage of voters using a wheelchair and reporting their ability to use the ramp to get into the building. Only 4% of the voters interviewed reported they used a wheelchair (Chart 7) and 3% of them considered the outside ramps too steep or difficult to use (Chart 8). However, it is

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

important to note that 29% considered the ramp easy to use. Very few comments were made about the ramp accessibility when in years past this was reported to be a major issue.

Chart 7

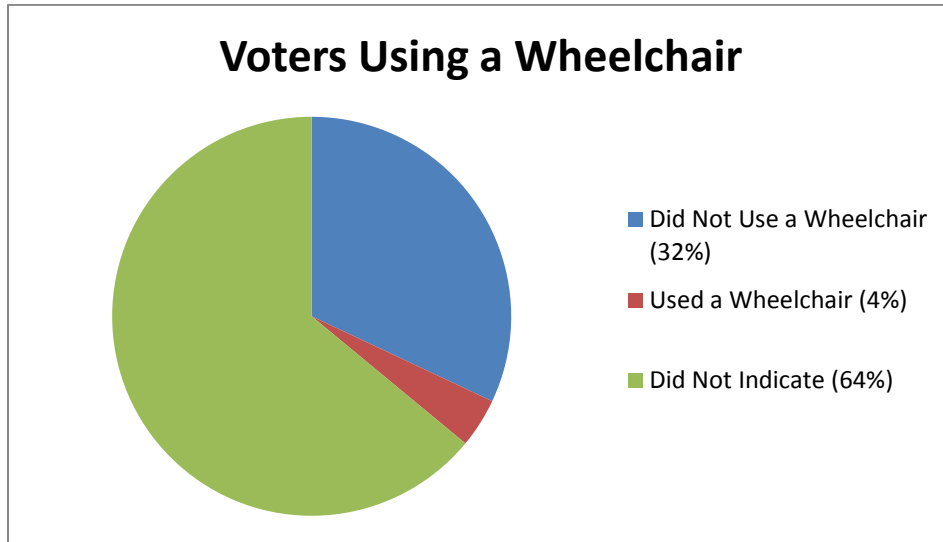
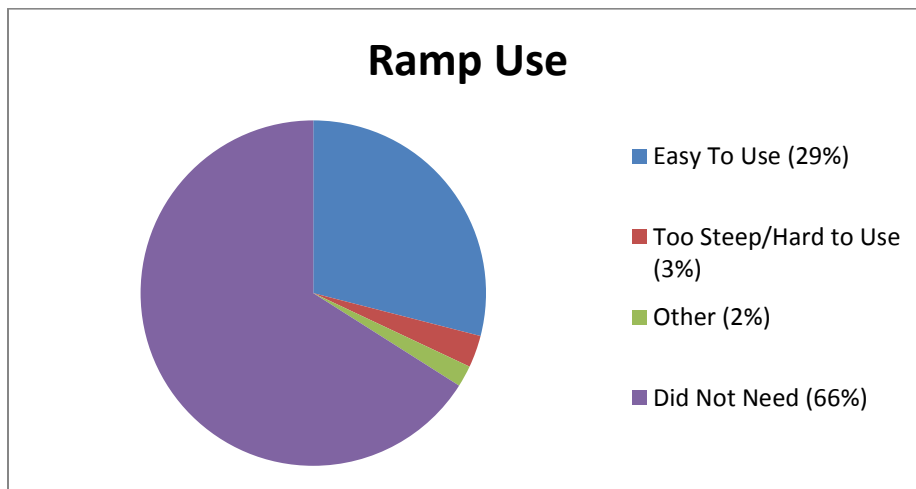


Chart 8



Voters described their ability to find the voting area hindered by lack of or poor signage (Chart 9). The majority of the voters (82%) said the signage was good. However, not being able to find the voting area was reported by voters as adding to their already high stress level. Once voters entered the voting area the

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

barriers they encountered did not end. Seven (7) percent of the voters reported they did not have enough space to get around the voting room to register and use the voting equipment (Chart 10). A crowded room makes it difficult for voters who have anxiety, use a wheelchair or are just afraid of someone knocking them over. Six (6) percent of the voters specifically reported a lack of privacy on the Checklist (Chart 11). Other voters in the room were able to see their ballots because of the location of the accessible equipment, the location of tables for voters who could not use the equipment because it was too high for them while sitting in their wheelchair and voters who relied on privacy screens felt casting their ballots was not at all private (other voters could see their ballots).

Chart 9

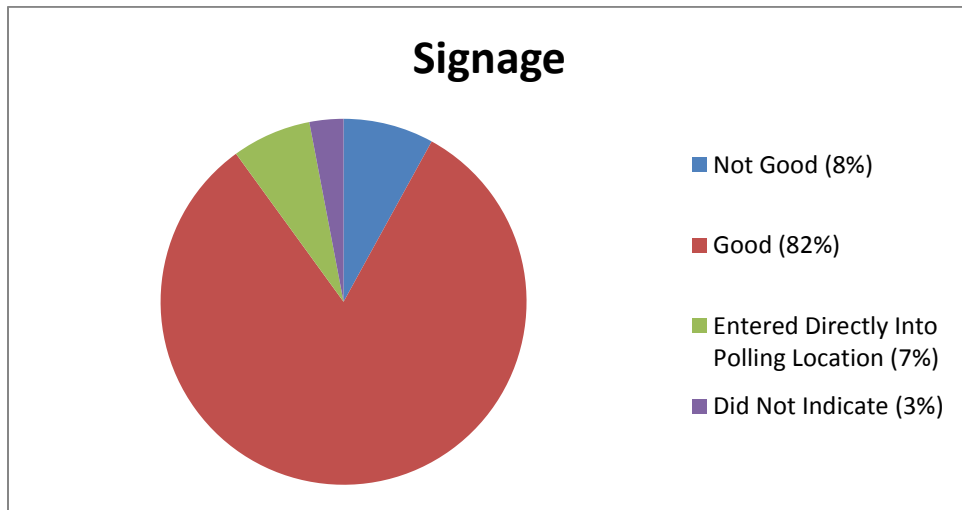
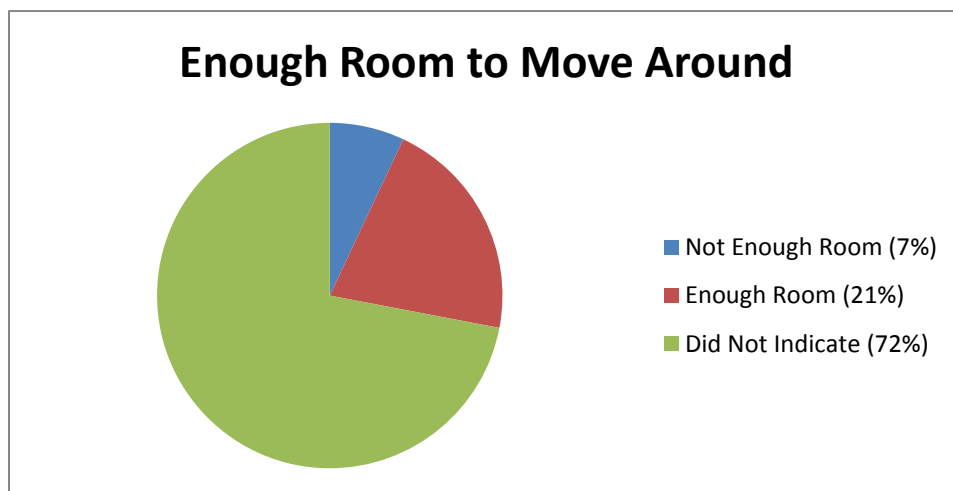


Chart 10



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Chart 11

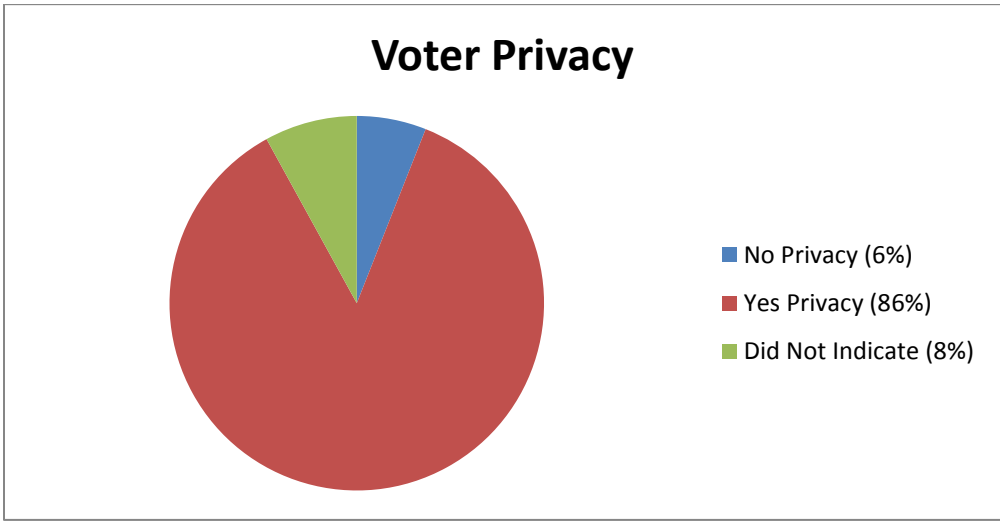
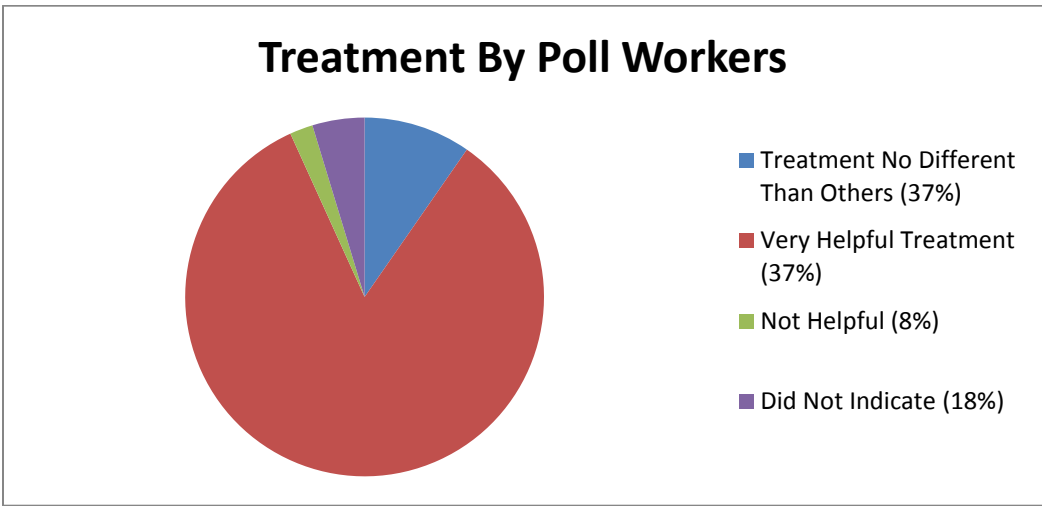


Chart 12



Many of the comments voters made on the Checklist focused on the poll workers. When the question was asked if they felt treated any differently than other voters by poll workers, 37% of the voters reported they did not feel they were treated any differently (Chart 12). Another 37% reported that the poll workers were very helpful in making their voting experience positive and 8% considered the poll workers not helpful. Examples of how poll workers were

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

helpful was offering chairs to voters waiting in long lines, making the voters feel welcome and willing to answer questions or assisting them in any way, suggesting more comfortable options, like voting at a table, etc. Many comments by voters indicated that the poll workers were not comfortable supporting voters in the use of accessible voting equipment. Because of this, voters felt their privacy and independence as a voter was denied. Refer to interviewer comments (pages 7-9) for a more comprehensive list of these types of concerns and experiences.



Ten percent (10%) of the voters interviewed were first time voters and 83% had voted in the past (Chart 13). Learning that one in every 10 voters interviewed was a first time voter was very exciting. Also, over one third of the voters participated in some sort of voter education opportunity (Chart 14). One of the most frequently used education option was watching the Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates. Other options shared were formal trainings about how to register to vote, how to use the accessible equipment, and attending “town hall meetings” to learn more about the candidates and what they believed.

Most voters were comfortable sharing their age (Chart 15) and gender (Chart 16). The young voter (under the age of 25) was 11% of the voters interviewed. As expected, the largest group of voters was between the ages of 40-55 (36%). Overall, voters volunteering to be interviewed for the project had representation from each age group.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Chart 13

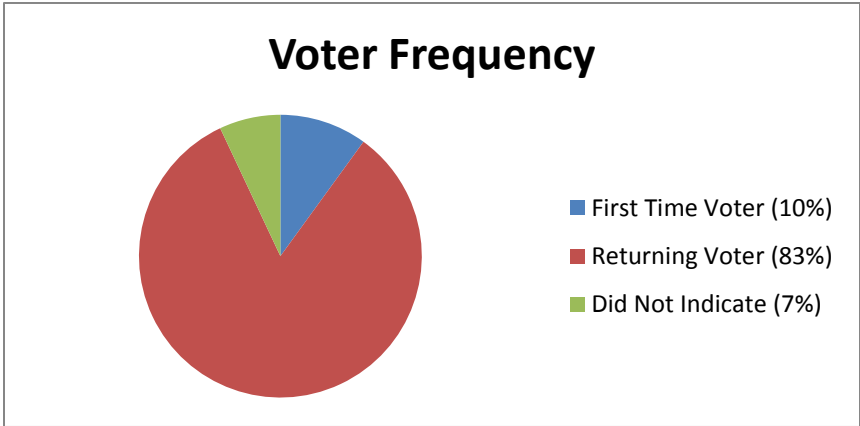


Chart 14

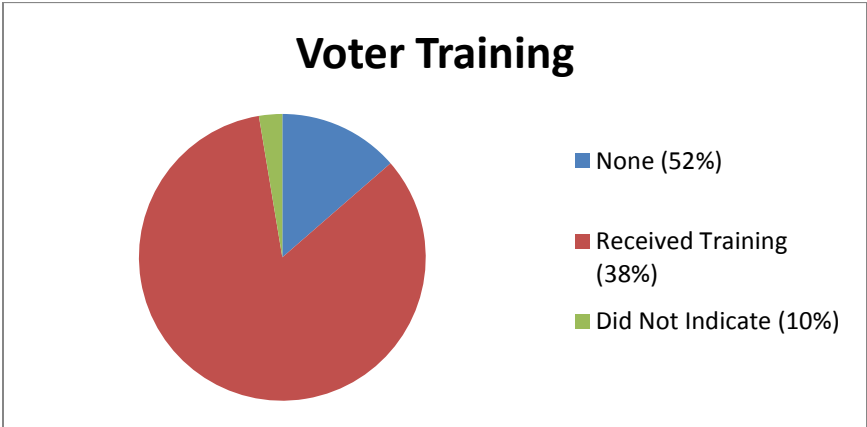
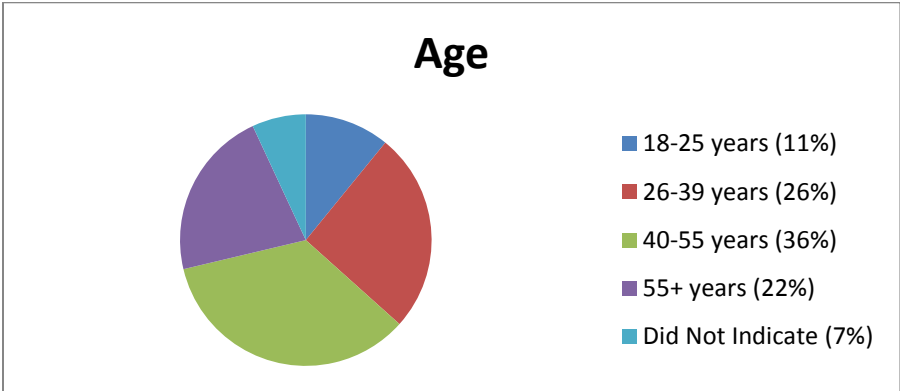
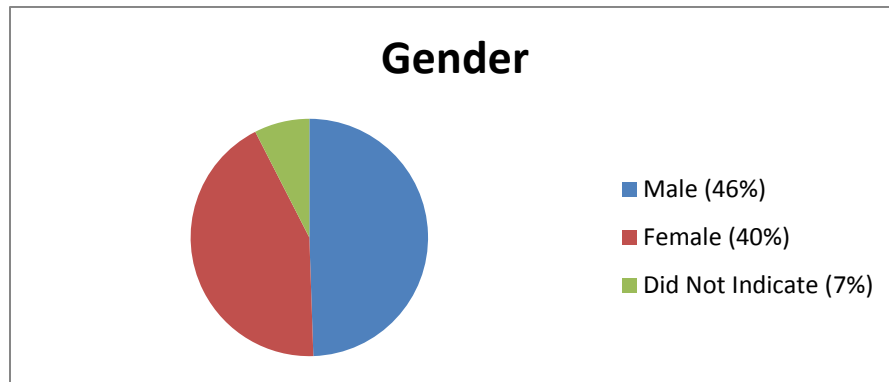


Chart 15



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Chart 16



UNIQUENESS OF PROJECT

- This project was a collaborative effort between the P&A, UCEDD and SABE.
- Checklist was developed and implemented by people with developmental disabilities interviewing voters with disabilities.
- Collaboration with the Cincinnati UCEDD LEND trainees in offering Project Vote as a leadership project option. The trainees provided training for voters with disabilities on the use of accessible voting equipment; compiled data collected from the Election Day Checklist and made recommendations to improve the Checklist.
- The Election Day Checklist project was coordinated by a P&A representative, UCEDD trainee, and/or a self advocacy group.



POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

- The South Carolina P&A used portions of the Project Vote Checklist as the basis for their Election Day Survey. SC hoped that the two sets of findings could be combined but the differences would have affected the overall integrity of the findings.
- The trained volunteer interviewers with a disability were paid if they lost work hours or were not employed by a participating agency.

PROJECT VOTE DEBRIEF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. For SABE and other self advocacy groups to work closer with P&A's to distribute the 800 call in number for voter assistance, voting day problem resolution, and questions.
2. How to reach voters not connected to the disability community? But do have a disability? Could our relationship with P&A's help do this?
3. Poll workers need training! Why can't people first groups and P&As be part of the training so poll workers could practice assisting a voter with disabilities to use the accessible equipment?

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that even though voters with disabilities had some negative experiences voting, the vast majority reported the polling places more welcoming than in years past. The fact that the voting experience for voters with disabilities is improving should be recognized but we still have a long way to go for many voters with disabilities to have a positive experience.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Attachment A

Universal Election Day Polling Place Checklist

Purpose: The purpose of this checklist is to inform government/agency officials at all levels, disability advocacy agencies, and the media about the voting experiences of individuals with disabilities on Election Day.

Dear Voter: Please help us in our effort to ensure that individuals with all kinds of disabilities can cast their private and independent ballot on November 6, 2012 by answering a few questions.

Interviewer (s): _____

Time Interviewed: _____

Polling Location County _____ State _____

How many parking spaces in the lot? _____

How many of the parking spaces are accessible? _____

DISABILITY QUESTION

Do you have a disability? Yes No

If you are comfortable, please check type of disability: Mental; Physical; Sensory;
 Motor; Visual If Other, please explain: _____

CHECKLIST

1. Did you have any problem (s) finding a parking place at your polling location?

Yes No Does not apply

2. Did you have any problems finding the way to enter your polling place? Yes No

If yes, please explain _____

3. Did you have a problem using your wheelchair to enter the building?

Yes No Does not apply If no, why?

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

4. Once you entered the building, were there enough signs to find the location of the voting area? Yes No Entered directly into the voting booth area.

5. If there is a ramp/lift to enter the building, how do you think it is to use?:

Easy to use Too Steep Lift hard to use

No ramp/lift needed Other, _____

6. If you use a wheelchair, when you enter the voting area, is there enough room to get to the voting materials, check-in, voting machines, tables, chairs and is it wide enough for a person using a wheelchair to get around or at least 3 feet wide? Yes No Does not apply

7. Were you able to vote privately and independently? Yes No

8. Did you feel the poll worker treated you any differently because of your disability?

Yes, very helpful Yes, not very helpful No

If yes, how _____

Optional Questions:

Have you voted before? Yes No

Is this your first time to vote? Yes No

Have you had any vote training getting ready for this election?

Yes No Comments _____

What age range are you:

18-25

26-39

40-55

55 and over

Male Female

THANK YOU and Let's Get Out the Vote in 2012!



Please return checklist to SABE Project Vote, 3546 Forestoak Court, Cincinnati, OH

45208 Email essie.pederson@gmail.com or nancyward50@gmail.com .

Essie 513-871-2181 Nancy Ward 405-226-1329

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Attachment B

PROCEDURES FOR STATES TO USE ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY CHECK LIST

The Election Day Polling Place Accessibility Checklist was developed by people with disabilities to be completed by people with disabilities. The purpose is to collect information about the voting experiences of people with disabilities on Election Day. Interviewers with disabilities will interview the people with disabilities. The interviews will be done by the person with a disability and a support person of their choice.

However you decide to do this activity keep in mind your resources. Do not take on more than you can handle. Every group, in every state, has different circumstances to work with, do not overextend your teams. If you decide to be a part of this effort, a member of the SABE Project Vote Team will be assigned to work with you. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Essie Pederson, essie.pederson@gmail.com (513) 623-2566 or Nancy Ward, nancyward50@gmail.com (405) 226-1329, SABE Project Vote Co-Directors.

Pre-meeting activities:

1. The state P&A will convene a meeting inviting possible self advocacy groups to help collect the information for the Election Day Check List about 4-6 weeks before election day. Each state P&A will have a Project Vote Staff member assisting them in planning this meeting and to answer questions.
2. The P&A meets with 2-3 members of local self-advocacy groups (within the geographic area the P&A decides to complete the surveys) with one additional support person to talk about strategies to complete the Election Day Polling Place Accessibility Check List.
3. Schedule this meeting for 1.5 hour at an accessible location.
4. The group will review the Check List and decide if they want to help by talking with their membership about completing the Check List on Election Day.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

5. A common question asked by the group is: How do you decide if someone has a disability? Previous groups decided that they would not make that decision but let the voter decide. They will ask: “My name is _____, and I am here today to collect information about the voting experiences of people who have a disability. Do you have a disability?” The person will answer yes or no. If yes, continue “Do you have a few minutes that you could answer a few yes or no questions for me? We do not want your name only your answers to the questions. If no, thank them for their time.
6. All interviews will be done in teams, a self-advocate with a partner of their choice. Interviews will be done on Election Day at Polling Places, telephone interviews with voters, and/or going to locations where a large number of people with disabilities congregate (Goodwill, Independent Living Center, UCP, etc.)
7. A local project coordinator should be selected at this time. They will have the responsibility to recruit, train, and assist teams to complete their assignment and collect the completed Check Lists. (More specific tasks are listed under Project Coordinator(s) duties). Identifying co-directors seems to work well, a P&A staff person and a self-advocate.
8. The county/state DD Services program can be contacted to provide demographic information of people over the age of 18 in their service system.

Local Project Coordinator(s) Duties

1. Coordinators must agree to complete the required tasks according to the timeline set.
2. Coordinate and run all meetings to select, prepare, and follow-up with interview teams.
3. Teams must have a local contact person and number to call if they have any questions or problems on Election Day.
4. Identify a mailing location for teams to submit their completed Check Lists.
5. Coordinators will provide the number of Check Lists and self-addressed/stamped envelopes for each interview team. (Place a few pens in the envelop as well).
6. Once the completed Check Lists are completed mail them to the Project Coordinators at (provide address, email, and phone number).
7. Help group decide which polling places to complete the check lists at. Check to see if there is geographical numbers on where people over the

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

age of 18 live. This can help the group identify where they will do their interviews.

8. A courtesy call should be given to the county Board of Elections/state Secretary of States Office to let them know that you will be collecting information at the polling places; and, confirm if there are any legal requirements you should be aware of when the teams do Check Lists with Voters on Election Day. Also the Board of Elections can provide the locations of all polling places in the specific neighborhoods where a large concentration of people with disabilities resided. This information will help the teams to select their locations to gather information.

Meeting with Polling Place interviewers:

1. Each team will include a person with a disability and a partner of their choice.
2. Plan on 1.5 hours for this meeting.
3. The most promising polling locations will be matched with the interview teams.
4. Every team will commit to collecting information at their assigned polling location for at least two hours, interview people with disabilities at least one location, or contact self advocates via telephone interviews.
5. Teams should consider bringing something to drink, umbrella in case of rain, dress appropriately for the weather and bring a chair if there is any down time.
6. Every interview team will have a packet of blank Check Lists in an envelope to use. At the end of their assigned time, they will mail the completed check lists in the addressed and stamped envelope provided immediately after they complete their agreed upon assignment.

Not all interviewers will be at polling places on Election Day:

1. Teams who volunteer to collect this same information at assigned agency locations and/or telephone interviews will follow step 6 above.
2. These Check Lists must be completed and mailed back to the co-coordinators no later *than two weeks after Election Day*.
3. Examples of locations to disseminate the Check List are: people first and/or leadership organizations, independent living centers, UCP, Down Syndrome groups, residential providers, Goodwill, at meetings, etc.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Another Option: Early Voting Polling Place Interviewers:

1. Teams could be assigned to collect the Check List information at Early Voting locations.
2. Every interview team will have a packet of blank Checklists in an envelope to disseminate. At the end of their assigned time, they will mail the completed check lists in the addressed and stamped envelope provided immediately after they complete their assignment.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

SAMPLE LETTER SENT TO TEAMS

TO: Hamilton County Polling Place Checklist Teams

FROM: Brady Sellet, Cincinnati UCEDD, Local Co-Coordinator
Essie Pederson, SABE Project Vote, Local Co-Coordinator

RE: SABE Polling Place Checklist Instructions

DATE: November 5, 2012

Hi Teams, thank you again for agreeing to help Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) in collecting information from people with disabilities about their voting day experiences. This is the first time this kind of information is being collected from people with disabilities at their polling places, or in groups or by telephone.

AT THE POLLING PLACES, DO NOT GO BEYOND THE FLAGS MARKING THE POLLING PLACE ENTRANCE!

Please mark your calendars for a debrief after party on Thursday, November 8, 2012 from 1:30 – 3 pm at the Cincinnati UCEDD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Room 5TH FLOOR Rm 601

Contacts for Questions/Problems:

Brady Sellet: brady.sellet@cchmc.org
(513) 260-9058 – c

Essie Pederson: essie.pederson@gmail.com
(513) 623-2566 – c

Procedures Tuesday, November 6 at Polling Places: Each selected polling place location will have a team of people working together (one member with a disability and the other a partner of their choice). *Each team will work at the polling place for a minimum of two hours.* Team members with a disability will be reimbursed for their time, if not already paid by their employer (reimbursement to self advocates for their time is optional but encouraged). Each team selects the polling location within their assigned zip code.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

The teams are (we provided only one example, there were 10 teams):

Team: Diana Mairose and Mike Fasanella
Zip Code: 45209
Locations: Cambridge Arms, Madison Bowl, United Church of Christ

Procedures for November 7 and 8 at Agencies/ Telephone Interviews: Each team, plus additional teams, will be talking to people with disabilities about their voting experiences. Teams selected the groups they wished to work with.

1. Team: Marvin Moss and Patty McMahon
Location(s): United Cerebral Palsy and LADD
Date: November 8, 2012
2. Agency and Telephone interview completed checklists must be sent to coordinators no later than 2 weeks after Election Day.

Polling Place Checklist Packets: Each interview team will receive materials in a packet to be used when doing the interviews at polling places, in groups, and personally.

Contents of Packet:

- Clip Board with instructions on how to introduce yourself at the polling place and number to call if any questions or problems
- Two "Feel the Power of the Disability Vote" Pins
- Two pens
- 20 copies of the Checklist

Completed Checklists will be brought to the Debrief Meeting on November 8, 2012 or will be picked up by Essie Pederson no later than 2 weeks from Election Day.. Please let Brady Sellet know if you will attending the meeting or need to have Checklists picked up.

People receiving reimbursement checks must complete a reimbursement form by Friday, November 9, 2012 to send to Essie Pederson.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

Attachment C Revised Election Day Checklist

Purpose: The purpose of this checklist is to inform government/agency officials at all levels, disability advocacy agencies, and the media about the voting experiences of individuals with disabilities on Election Day.

Dear Voter: Please help us in our effort to ensure that individuals with all kinds of disabilities can cast their private and independent ballot by answering a few questions.

Interviewer (s): _____
Polling Location County _____ State _____
Did someone bring you to your polling place? ____ Yes ____ No

DISABILITY QUESTION

Do you have a disability? ____ Yes ____ No Are you over the age of 55? ____ Yes ____ No

If you are comfortable, please check type of disability: __ Learning/Intellectual __ Physical;
__ Visual __ Hearing. If other, please explain: _____

Did you use public transportation? ____ Yes ____ No

CHECKLIST

1. Did you have any problem (s) finding an accessible parking place at your polling location?
____ Yes ____ No ____ Does not apply

2. Did you have any problems finding the way to enter your polling place? ____ Yes ____ No
If yes, please explain _____

3. Did you have a problem did you have a problem getting into the building?
____ Yes ____ No ____ Does not apply, explain?

4. If there is a ramp/elevator needed to enter the building or to voting area, how was it?
____ Easy to use ____ Too Steep ____ Elevator hard to use ____ none, if not available
____ No ramp/elevator needed ____ Other, _____

5. Once you entered the building, were there enough signs to find the location of the voting area? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Entered directly into the voting booth area.

POST 2012 ELECTION DAY REPORT

6. If you use a wheelchair, were you able to easily move about the voting area? Yes No Does not apply

7. Did you feel the poll worker treated you any differently because of your disability?
 Yes No Explain

8. Were you able to vote privately and independently? Yes No

Optional Questions:

A. Have you voted before? Yes No

B. Is this your first time to vote? Yes No

C. Have you had any vote training getting or studied on your own for ready for this election?

Information from the computer Television attended a class on voting
 None Other _____

D. What age range are you:

18-25

26-39

40-55

55 and over

E. Male Female

THANK YOU and Let's Get Out the Vote!



Please return checklist to SABE Project Vote, 3546 Forestoak Court, Cincinnati, OH
45208 Email essie.pederson@gmail.com or nancyward50@gmail.com .

Essie 513-871-2181 Nancy Ward 405-226-1329