

**Minutes**  
**Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**June 27, 2024**

**People in Attendance**

Steve Duenkel, *Mason County Auditor*

Susan Blankenship, *Assistant Election Administrator*

Kailey Chappell, *Elections Technician & Outreach*

Jason Rowe, *Mason County Transit*

Marilyn Corrigan, *Mason County Democrats*

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**Call to order:** Steve Duenkel, Auditor called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

**Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves

**Overview:**

- Review of Agenda
  - Discussed how the focus of the meeting is to share ideas to make the August and November more accessible for voters
  - Steve did note that these meetings are only required yearly but he would like to have them quarterly.

**Official Business**

- No Official Business

**Old Business:**

- Audio Assistance in Lobby
  - Last meeting Kevin Frankeberger had said it would be helpful for blind individuals to have a recording in the lobby stating what building they were in and where the elevator is located. Kailey discussed a device she found that records a message that has a motion sensor so when people approach it will play the recording. Everyone agreed that this would be a helpful addition to the lobby.

**New Business:**

- Signage for Front of Admin Building for Ramp
  - Marilyn brought up the fact there is no sign out front of Building 1 directing people where the ramp is for wheelchair access. Kailey confirmed that we were aware of that issue and will work with county maintenance to get a sign in place, so it is obvious where to go for the ramp.

- New County/Elections Website
  - Steve went over how the County is working to revamp their website, so it has more accessibility features. The Elections website will now be moved to the county's website. Steve would like the committee's feedback once the website's new features are released.
- Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)
  - Steve brought up the fact that the AVU is not being used and posed the questions as to why that might be. Do we need more advertising? Currently we only advertise the ADU in the voter's pamphlet, on the ballot insert, and on our website. Jason with Mason Transit said they could advertise it on the buses to reach more people. Marilyn inquired if we knew what the population of people that could benefit from this machine, such as how many blind people in our community. We did not know but thought it might be helpful to reach out to some organizations that would know or that work specifically with the blind or people with disabilities to get the word out about the ADU.
- Transit Service to Vote Center's
  - Susan stated it would be helpful to provide voters with transportation, so they are able to come to the vote center to use the ADU or get a replacement ballot. Jason said that Mason transit would be willing to work with us to set up routes and time frames to offer transportation opportunities across the county. He also noted that dial a ride is available to voters with disabilities and in rural areas that would not be able to get to a central pickup location.
- Grapeview Ballot Box Accessibility issue
  - There is a divot in front of the ballot box that fills with water, mud, and moss creating a slippery surface for voters. We would like to work with Fire District 3 and the Horton Community Center to see how we could go about fixing this issue so the ballot box can be accessed safely and with ease.
- Other Community Entities Help with Printing Ballots
  - In the past we did not have two Vote Center locations so Kailey asked if we should still ask our community partners like the Libraries and Chambers of Commerce to help Voters print their ballots if they are unable to make it to a vote center or print a ballot at home. Everyone agreed we should continue to ask our community partners to assist us if they are able and willing.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Adjourned at 2:25pm