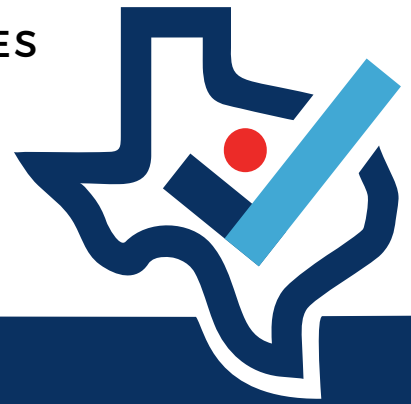


Senate Bill (SB) 477

Sen. Judith Zaffirini



Accommodations for Voters with Disabilities

SB 477 would standardize certain voting accommodations for people with disabilities. For voters with mobility impairments, the bill would mandate currently optional provisions giving them voting order prioritization. It would ensure that there are two reserved parking spaces for curbside voting, which are in addition to any spaces for people with disabilities. SB 477 would require fillable and printable ballot applications, as well as all procedures and accommodations available for voters with disabilities, to be posted on county clerk websites.



Texas law already provides some accommodations for voters with disabilities, including curbside voting and the **option** to allow individuals with mobility impairments to have their voting order prioritized. But the accommodations are not consistent statewide and should be **required** uniformly at all polling locations to prevent discrimination and ensure accessibility.



In recent years, legal actions have been taken against Texas counties due to a lack of elections accessibility, including a court order requiring Bexar County to display curbside voting signs at all polling places and a federal Department of Justice lawsuit against Harris County for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to inadequate parking at polling locations.



Supporters of the bill include AARP Texas, the ACLU of Texas, ADAPT of Texas, Autism Society of Texas, Children's Defense Fund, Common Cause Texas, Disability Rights Texas, League of Women Voters of Texas, Texas Civil Rights Project, Texas Impact, United Ways of Texas, and others.

“Ease of access for voting for people with disabilities is dependent on accommodations and SB 477 makes better accommodations in practice.”

Testimony from the
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
to the Senate State Affairs Committee,
March 2023

