



# Meeting Notice for the Governor's Commission on Disabilities Election Assistance Committee Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 2pm

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049  
(voice) 401-462-0100 (fax) 462-0106 (tty) via RI Relay 711  
(e-mail) [disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov)  
(website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)

## Agenda

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### Special notes:

We ask that you use unscented personal care products - that you not wear perfumes or scents. Please realize that what may seem to you to be a mild scent can make other people sick.

Anyone may come to meetings of the Commission or its committees.

If you need someone to read, large print, Braille, interpreters or captioners for the deaf and hard of hearing, at our meetings, please call (401-462-0100, via RI Replay 711) or email ([disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov)) the Commission at least 3 business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting it.



No perfume or scents graphic



sign language logo



assistive listening logo



large print logo



**Governor's Commission on Disabilities**  
**Election Assistance Committee Agenda**  
**Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 2pm**  
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**Attendees:** Rory Carmody (Chairperson); Casey Gartland (Vice Chair.); Kate Bowden, Chris Butler, Leo Canuel, Regina Connor, Steven Florio, Michelle Hayes, Miguel Nunez, Grace Pires, Arthur Plitt, Robert Rapoza, Lorna Ricci

**Guests:**

**Staff:**

Bob Cooper, Christine Rancourt Bruzzi, Christopher DeGrave



Clock graphic

**2:00 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair**

Chair calls the meeting to order at \_\_\_\_  
 Introductions of Commissioners and guests



voting check off graphic

**Potential MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as *presented/revised*.

**Action Items:**

**2:05 Election Assistance Plan**

**Purpose/Goal:** To decide approve the current year plan as presented or revise as necessary; develop a plan for FY 2013-2014

**Discussion:** The 2012 - 2013 Operational Plan contained the following, which the Committee can retain, revise, or replace for the FY 2013 & 2014 Ops Plan.

**Protecting the Voting Rights of Individuals with Disabilities**

The Commission is the state's sole designated recipient of the US Department of Human Services – **Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities State Grants**. These funds may only be used for the following activities:

- o “Making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities;
- o Providing the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, to individuals with the full range of disabilities as for other voters;
- o Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office; and
- o Providing individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.”

***Protecting the Voting Rights of Individuals with Disabilities***

**1) Name of program/initiative**

Protecting the Voting Rights of Individuals with Disabilities

**2) What is the intended purpose of the program?**

To make sure each person with disabilities can vote, in private and independently. To make sure all polling places and voting equipment are accessible. The staff inspects every polling place, identifying barriers and recommending solutions, prior to election days.

**The Election Assistance Committee:**

- Awards grants to local boards of canvassers to remove physical barriers at polling places to ensure all voters with disabilities are able to vote at the same location as their neighbors.
- It helps fund the RI Disability Vote Project (RIDVP). The RIDVP's conducts voter outreach, education, registration, and the recruitment of voters with disabilities to be poll workers.
- Recruits voters with disabilities to check for access to polling places on Election Day and report any problems to the State Board of Elections, for immediate correction.
- The RI Disability Law Center and Commission publicize disability voter rights via newspaper ads and other media just before election days.

**3) How does this relate to the department's overall mission?**

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- “Making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities;
- Providing the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, to individuals with the full range of disabilities as for other voters;
- Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office; and
- Providing individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.”

**4) Is there specific authorization for the program? If required under federal and state law or regulation, please provide the specific citation or authorizing statute.**

- RIGL 17-9.1-31. Registration of voters - Voter registration advisory board<sup>57</sup>
- RIGL 17-19-3.2. Polling place accessibility for voters who are disabled or elderly<sup>58</sup>
- RIGL 42-87-5(b) Civil Rights of People with Disabilities - Enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions<sup>59</sup>
- 42 USC 15461 Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act – State Grant for Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

**5) Is the program's duration limited to a specific time period (e.g., authorization sunset, expiration of federal grant, etc.)**

No, the State voting rights law must continued to be enforced by the Commission.

The federal HAVA-EAID Funds must be expended within 5 federal fiscal years of award. No HAVA-EAID funding is anticipated after federal fiscal year 2011. Already awarded funding is projected to be fully expended by FFY 2016.

**6) Who is the primary customer (user/recipient/beneficiary) of the program?**

**User/recipient:** Local Boards of Canvassers & State Board of Elections

**Beneficiary:** 116,004 Citizens with Disabilities of voting age (ages 18 years and over living in the community)<sup>6061</sup>

**7) List all other relevant stakeholders who are impacted by the program (customers, nonprofit organizations, industry). Please be as specific as possible.**

- Local boards of canvassers: on-site access inspections of every polling place; polling place accessibility renovation grants; and recruiting poll workers who have disabilities recruiting poll workers who have disabilities.
- State Board of Election: poll worker and election officials' training and recruiting poll workers who have disabilities; day of election on-site monitoring of polling place access; and provide technical assistance concerning accessible voting equipment and polling places.
- People with Disabilities: Voter education, registration, and awareness of disability voting rights.

**8) How is success for this program defined? What outcomes are you trying to achieve?**

The percentage of polling places that were surveyed and made accessible prior to election days. The measure includes all polling places open on either primary and/or general election days. The measure is related to the Commission's obligation to ensure all voters with disabilities are able to vote independently and in private, under the Help America Vote Act, RIGL 17-19-3.2 Polling place accessibility for voters who are disabled or elderly, and 42-87 Civil Rights of People with Disabilities.

**The Commission tracks the following for the HAVA – EAID grant:**

- The number of polling places
- The number of polling places surveyed
- The number of polling places not surveyed
- The number of polling places with barriers, prior to election
- The number of polling places barriers where were removed, prior to election
- The number of polling places and voting equipment accessible on election day
- The number of polling places or voting equipment with day of election barriers
- The number of newly registered voters
- The number of election access complaints

**9) Are you currently collecting performance/outcome measurements for the program?**

Yes

**10) Do you have a corrective action plan for program underperformance?**

Yes, within available budgetary & personnel resources

**11) How frequently do you review the metrics?**

Annually, and as needed

**12) Do other governmental or non-governmental organizations or persons assist with program development implementation or outcome assessment (e.g., technical guidance provided by the federal government, client information received from non-profits, etc.). Please list them and their roles.**

The Election Assistance Committee includes representatives from:

- City of Pawtucket Board of Canvassers
- CranstonArc;
- In-Sight;
- National Federation of the Blind of RI;
- Ocean State Center for Independent Living
- Opportunities Unlimited for People With Differing Abilities, Inc;
- RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
- RI Department of Administration, Office of Personnel Administration;
- RI Department of Human Services, Assistive Technology Access Partnership;
- RI Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services;
- RI Disability Law Center;
- RI Disability Vote Project.
- RI State Board of Elections;
- Secretary of State's Office, Elections Division; and
- United Way - 211

The 39 city and town boards of canvasses

**13) How many FTEs are assigned to the program? (If an employee spends part of his/her time on a program, please use decimals in the total FTE count.)**

<b>Protecting Voting Rights</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>FY 12</b>	<b>FY 13</b>
HAVA Grant (federal)	0.17	0.40	0.42

**14) Do you use any contract employees for program management, implementation or outcome assessment?**

No

**15) Are any FTEs or contractors federally funded, either partly or fully?**

Yes

16) What is the estimated budget for the program, as of the FY 11 supplemental? How much of that amount, if any, comes from federal funds?

<b>Protecting Voting Rights</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>FY 12</b>	<b>FY 13</b>
HAVA Grant (federal)	\$176,044	\$99,913	\$100,000

**17) Is the function similar to any other public function? In what way is it different?**

No

**18) Can the process or function be accomplished in another way, or by another party?**

No

**19) Does the process or function produce the result(s) originally intended? If not, why not, or what would have to be done to make it produce those results?**

Yes.

**FY 11 Achievements:**

- State ADA Coordinator and Asst. ADA Coordinator have surveyed and supervised 5 polling places modification/ accessibility projects.

- Past election surveys jumpstarted several construction & renovation projects including identifying a significant need for an increase in disability parking at ALL polling locations
- Staff members continue to coordinate with the RI Board of Elections to register those in the disability community to vote.
- Committee working to recruit poll-workers with disabilities to increase poll accessibility and job-availability.
- Renewed contract with RIDVP for the fiscal year 2012.
- Project funding awarded to the Town of South Kingstown to install a new lift at Curtis Corner School polling location.

**FY 11 Barriers:**

- State purchasing procedures obstruct spending of available federal HAVA funding.
- Re-districting of voting boundaries with delayed timeline makes polling place surveying and increasing accessibility (spending federal \$) almost impossible.
- Lack of staffing & personnel resources to re-survey all polling locations (in non-election years) for accessibility prior to the election.
- No-dedicated staff person to HAVA
- No Presidential budget recommendation for increasing or sustaining HAVA funding into the future.
- Busy schedules limit availability for committee meetings

**FY 2012/13 Goals**

- Education on the voter ID requirement
- Expanding voter outreach and registration to young adults with disabilities
- Removing any remaining physical barriers at polling place
- Encouraging adults with disabilities to become candidates

**20) When was the process or function last examined or changed?**

Annual operation reviews are conducted each September.



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Potential MOTION: To approve the for FY2013-2014 operational plan as *presented/revised as follows ...*



calendar graphic

**2:55 Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meeting, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair**

Items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda:  
[Insert standard items, leaving blank rows for additional items]

Next meeting will be on: September 20, 2012 2 PM



alarm clock graphic

**3:00 Adjournment, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair**



voting check off graphic

MOTION: To adjourn at [Insert time motion adopted]