



## Tips for reaching disabled voters

### Getting your vote out

- Be prepared to explain clearly the options for voting – including by post. If asked a question you cannot answer, find out specific details and get back to the person. Avoid guessing or being vague.
- Make sure you know about access at your local polling stations.
- Transport assistance and a companion service to and from the polling station can be invaluable for disabled voters.
- When doorstep canvassing, be aware of people's communication needs and allow enough time for a disabled person to get to the door.
- Be prepared to offer alternative formats for election literature. For people with sight loss large print in plain text, audio or alternative methods (e.g. a telephone call) can make information accessible.
- Telephone numbers prefixed with 18002 indicate a text phone for D/deaf people or people with hearing loss. You can use a standard telephone to call a text phone. Visit Text Relay for information: <http://www.textrelay.org>

### Polling stations

The Equality Act places a legal duty on local authorities to make polling stations accessible. All polling stations should have:

- Accessible parking and step-free access routes
- A tactile, braille and large print voting template
- Ramps and wide, low level voting booths for wheelchair users
- Good lighting and seating for those who need it.

Staff should be helpful and respond to individuals who need extra support, understand the adjustments that can be made to enable disabled people to vote, and be aware of the rules relating to the capacity to vote.

**Don't be afraid to ask disabled people how you can support them to participate in the election.**

For more information or alternative formats of this leaflet contact Sense -  
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