



# Shasta Election Times

## SHASTA COUNTY ELECTIONS



July 2015

### Equal Access for All Voters

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires buildings to be equally accessible to everyone. This includes the polling site. Each site should be free from physical barriers. This will keep the voting system accessible for people with disabilities. It insures every voter receives the same opportunity for participation on Election Day.

We perform surveys at every polling site prior to Election Day. These surveys make us aware of issues that might happen on Election Day at each facility. The California Secretary of State provides us with a survey and guidelines to follow. These guidelines follow current state and federal accessibility laws. It takes two staff members to complete a survey. A survey consists of pictures and measurements of ramps, elevators, parking spaces, door widths, handles and more. They make notes and determine the equipment each site needs to ensure accessibility on Election Day.

#### What does this mean for Poll Workers?

You will receive additional supplies such as, orange cones, special cone signs, doorstops, ramps and a floor plan to make the polling site equally accessible to all voters. Use these supplies and floor plan diagram to set up your polling site on Election Day. Look for more information in your Poll Worker's Manual and the Inspector's Guide to Poll Site Setup.

We encourage you to walk around your polling site. Imagine yourself in a wheel chair or with a walker. Ask yourself the following questions.

#### Outside the Polling Site

- Is the parking space designated for handicap parking clearly marked?
- Is the access aisle clearly marked? For a car, the access aisle is to be on the driver's side of the handicap parking space. For a van, the access aisle is to be on the passenger side.
- Is there a clear and marked path of travel from the parking area to the entrance to the polling site? Are there any tripping hazards in the path? Any wide gaps that might need a heavy mat or ramp over them?

#### Inside the Polling Site

- Is there a clear and uncluttered path to all the necessary tables and voting booths?
- Do you have to duck your head below objects? If anything is hanging below 80 inches, place an orange cone below it.

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Continue on back page



**Cont. Equal Access for All Voters**

Lastly, we value your feedback after every election! You get to see what really happens on Election Day at each facility. Do you have any concerns or issues we need to know about? We always appreciate any suggestions and/or adjustments to our diagrams. If possible, send us photos of your polling site after it is set up and before voters arrive.



The national organization on disability reports that more than 54 million Americans have a disability. Below are some tips to interact more effectively with people with disabilities.

Words or Phrases to Avoid	Preferred Alternatives
A disabled person	Person with a disability
The handicapped or crippled	Person with a disability
Normal, healthy or able-bodied person/people	People without disabilities, typical person
Wheelchair-bound or confined to a wheelchair	A wheelchair user, uses a wheelchair
Birth defect or affliction	Congenital disability or birth anomaly
A victim of multiple sclerosis (or other condition)	Has multiple sclerosis, has (insert condition)
Mentally retarded, a retard, slow or special	Person with an intellectual or developmental disability
Downs person	Person with Down syndrome
The epileptic or epileptics, fits or epileptic fits	Person with epilepsy, person with seizure disorder, seizure or
The mentally ill, crazy, psycho, nuts, mental case	Person with a mental disorder
The blind, or blind as a bat	People who are blind or visually impaired
Deaf mute, deaf and dumb	Person who is hard of hearing, person who is deaf
	~Disability Resource Center

**Staff Spotlight: Sarah Murrietta**



The Candidate Filing desk is well staffed by the brilliant Sarah. Originally hired in December 2013 for the Voter by Mail desk, she has juggled both positions. When Sarah took on Candidate Filing, she was presented with the “Clues” binder, instead of the traditional procedure manual. Due to the very specific laws and regulating candidate filings there is never an absolute answer, exceptions are the rule. In an effort to clearly decipher each situation Sarah dove in head first, putting her B.S. Degree in Business Administration Management to work! Transforming the Clue Binder into a comprehensive manual is a full time job, yet she still provides excellent customer service in all of her Clerk duties.

The most rewarding part of working at the Elections Office for Sarah is being a part of the democratic process from the ground up. The inner workings of the electoral process is so intricate she thrives in decoding the delicate threads.

