



**New Hampshire
Poll Worker Training
Disability Access**

Disabilities Access and Voting System Task Force

- City and Town Clerks
- Moderators
- Selectmen and Town Administrators
- Citizen's Groups (**Nancy Tobi**)
- Legislators
- Disabilities Community-
 - Governor's Commission on Disability
 - Disabilities Rights Center
 - Granite State Independent Living
 - NH Association for the Blind



NASS

National Association of Secretaries of State



Member Survey

“Top 10 List of Most Important and Perhaps Challenging Compliance Points for Disability Access to both the Polling Place and/or the Voting Equipment”



#1.

Sensitizing election officials, poll workers and the public to disability issues and how to offer appropriate assistance to voters with disabilities

“Person First” Language

Empowering Language

Disempowering Language

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. person with a disability | the disabled; handicapped |
| 2. person with a cognitive disability | retarded |
| 3. person who is blind | the blind |
| 4. person who is deaf | deaf, deaf and dumb |
| 5. person with (<i>any disability</i>) | suffers from or with |

Myths & Misconceptions

- **Disabilities are always visible.**
- **All people with disabilities are likeable.**

Really?!

Then why do we need accessible jail cells?!

- **People with disabilities are inspirational, courageous, and brave for being able to overcome their disabilities.**

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Treat adults as adults.
- Offer to shake hands.
- Address everybody in the same manner.
- Speak to the person, not to a companion or interpreter.
- Identify yourself when meeting someone who is blind or has low vision and let them know when you are leaving their presence.
- If you offer assistance, wait to see if your offer is accepted, then ask how you can help.
- Listen attentively when talking with people who have difficulty speaking and wait for them to finish. If you do not understand, ask them to repeat what they have said.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Do not lean against or hang on to wheelchairs and if you bump into a wheelchair, acknowledge your mistake to the person sitting in it.
- Place yourself at eye-level when speaking to a person who is in a wheelchair or on crutches.
- When speaking to a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing (**NOT** “hearing impaired”), look directly at the person. To get the person’s attention, tap them on the shoulder or wave your hand.
- Do not distract or pet service animals.
- Don’t get hung up on words like: hear, see, walk, run, etc. People with disabilities use the same terms all the time.

BEST COMMUNICATION TIP

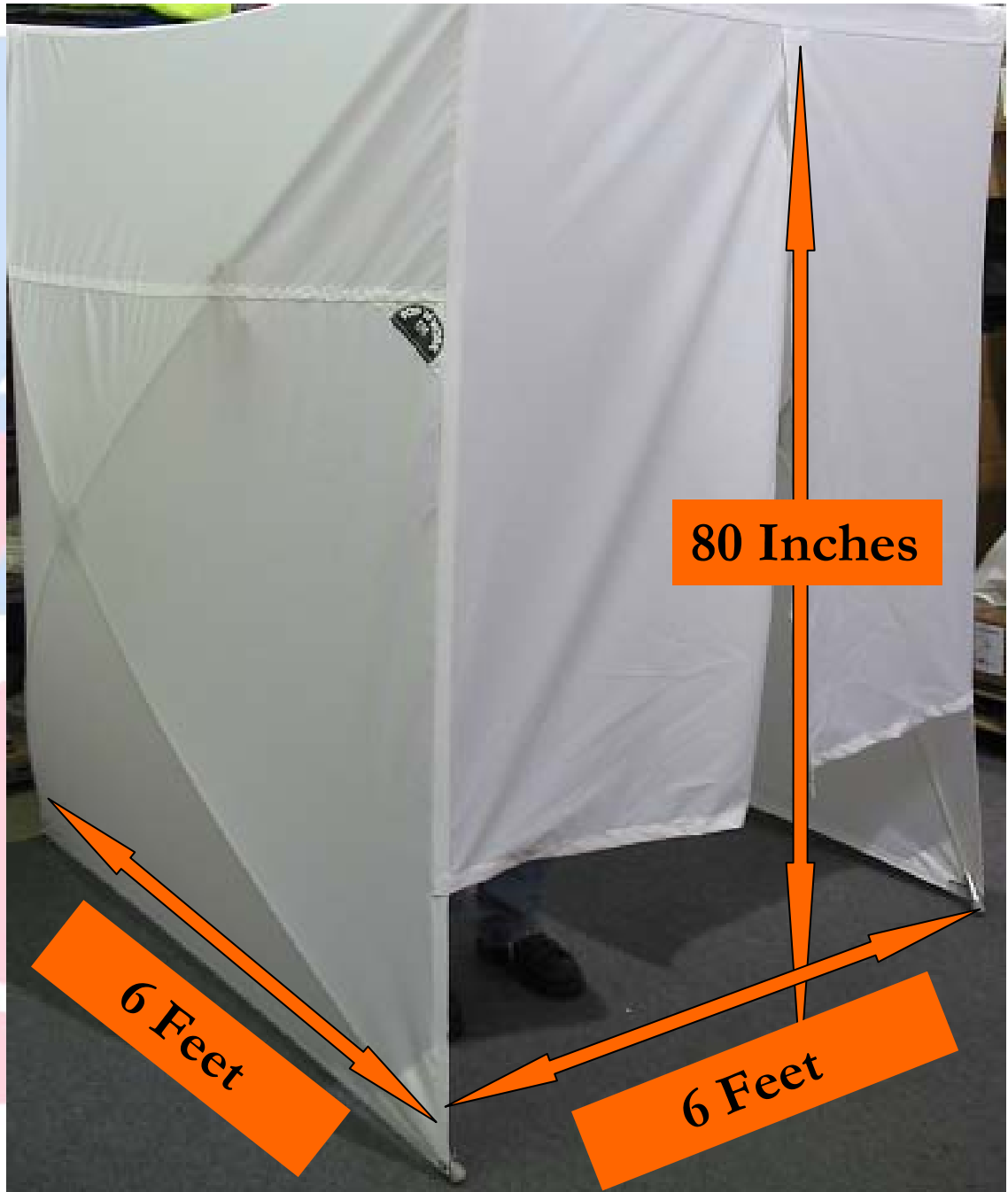
Relax



Actual Voter Experience

- Person in a wheel chair
- Polling place in a church basement
- Accessible ramp and entrance in the back
- Couldn't manage the door pressure
- Once inside, no room to maneuver
- Someone finally assists with the elevator
- A hour since arriving
- Was able to register since this was a new town
- Went to the new "handicapped accessible" voting booth
- Wheelchair control gets caught under the shelf
- Chair, person and booth spin out of control, destroying the booth and most of the polling place
- There was a church supper going on also

**Accessible
Voting
Booth**



**Interior of
Accessible
Voting
Booth**



Accessible Voting Booth Equipment

- 1. a Facsimile Machine*
- 2. an Ameriphone XL-50 accessible telephone*
- 3. a binaural mono headset*
- 4. a desk lamp for added illumination*
- 5. sheet magnifier*

Other Equipment -

an Access Kit -

- clip board*
- signature template*
- deaf/HOH communication card*
- poll worker disability assist buttons*

NPR Story

Narrator: "Rose Prescott is almost 60 years old. She is blind. She lives on her own. Cleans her house on her own. Buys her groceries on her own. Travels on airplanes alone. But until now, she hasn't voted alone."

Rose Prescott: "I was just so excited that I could put that headset on and listen...I don't know what else to say about it. I was excited and happy. And when I left, I went 'yoo-hoo!' ."



“I used the accessible voting booth for the first time today. It was a thrill to be able to vote independently.”

Everything went smooth and there were no problems. The people working at the poll were excited about it too...”



Disability

Etiquette

Video