

VOTING BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Milford voters who are elderly or disabled have options when they want to cast their ballot.

First of all, each of the polling locations in Milford is accessible for the elderly and persons with disabilities. According to Massachusetts Secretary of State, William Galvin, "Accessible voting provides the same opportunity for access and participation to persons with disabilities as for other voters."

In addition, a voter can choose someone to assist with entering the polling location, checking in at the precinct, entering the voting booth, marking the ballot, exiting the booth, and checking out. Voting by absentee ballot at home is another option for Milford voters who are elderly or disabled.

Both Federal and State laws also require that voting systems be equipped for voters with disabilities. In Milford, each polling location has an accessible voting booth, recently purchased by the Milford Commission on Disability, that allows a person with a wheelchair to vote.

In addition, each precinct has an accessible voting machine. This marking machine allows voters who are disabled to have the same opportunity to vote privately and independently as any other voter. Milford poll workers are trained to assist voters with the use of these accessible machines if necessary.

Milford uses the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals for disabled voters. The AutoMARK is a marking device that provides audio cues for blind or visually impaired voters. It also has a feature that will greatly magnify the ballot or display the ballot in high contrast for voters who may have limited vision. The AutoMARK can also produce an oral report played to the voter over headphones to review the choices selected prior to the voter printing the ballot. The machine also ensures that no ballots are accidentally under-voted, over-voted, or left blank.

Follow this link for more information on the AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal:

http://www.premierelections.com/documents/product_sheets/Automark.pdf