

Madison County 2014 HAVA Compliance Training

**When *EVERYONE* Votes:
Meeting *Voter Access* Needs**

**Accessible Polling Places:
Meeting the needs of today's diverse
Voters with Disabilities**



Developed & Implemented by:

**NYS Commission on Quality of
Care & Advocacy for Persons with
Disabilities**



Creating a Welcoming Environment



- Communication
- Assistance
- Accommodations





“People First”

- **“Person with a disability” rather than disabled person**
- **“Persons with disabilities” rather than the disabled**
- **Specific disabilities – “Person with/Person who has”**
- **Aren’t sure? Ask the person his/her preference**
- **Read “People First” Publication**

Interaction & Assistance Tips

Persons with Mobility Impairments/Wheelchair Users

- Do not push wheelchair without asking
- Never lean on the footrest or armrest
- Offer assistance
- Know the accessible entrance, restroom and other features through the building



Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired



- Identify yourself
- Offer assistance, if accepted, guide by letting person take your arm
- State directions clearly; do not point or nod
- Service animals are working; do not pet
- Do not shout or talk loudly; let person know when you walk away
- Communicate & ask questions directly to the person



Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Have paper and pen available
- If interpreter present or companion, speak directly to the person who is deaf
- Do not shout or talk loudly; do not exaggerate your lip movements
- Face the person when giving directions; move to a quiet area
- Tap the person gently to get his/her attention



Interaction & Assistance Tips

Persons with Developmental/Cognitive Disability

- Provide simple and easy to follow instructions
- Be patient; listen carefully; do not finish sentences for the person
- Reassure the person you understood; ask questions again if unclear
- Allow extra time in the voting booth
- Person may take someone of his/her choice into the voting booth



“Vowels for Accessible Voting”



A - Arrival

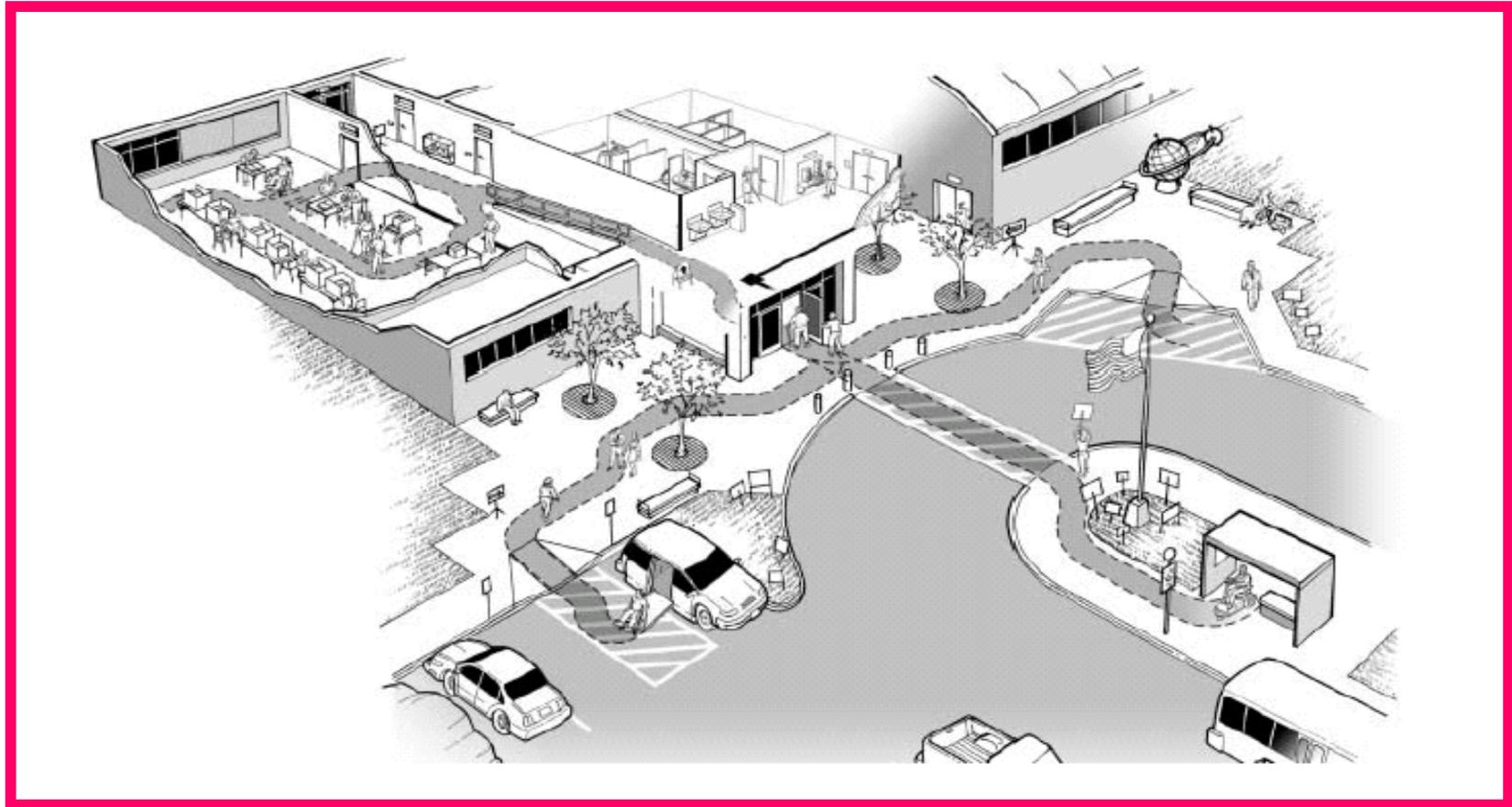
E - Entrance

I - Interior

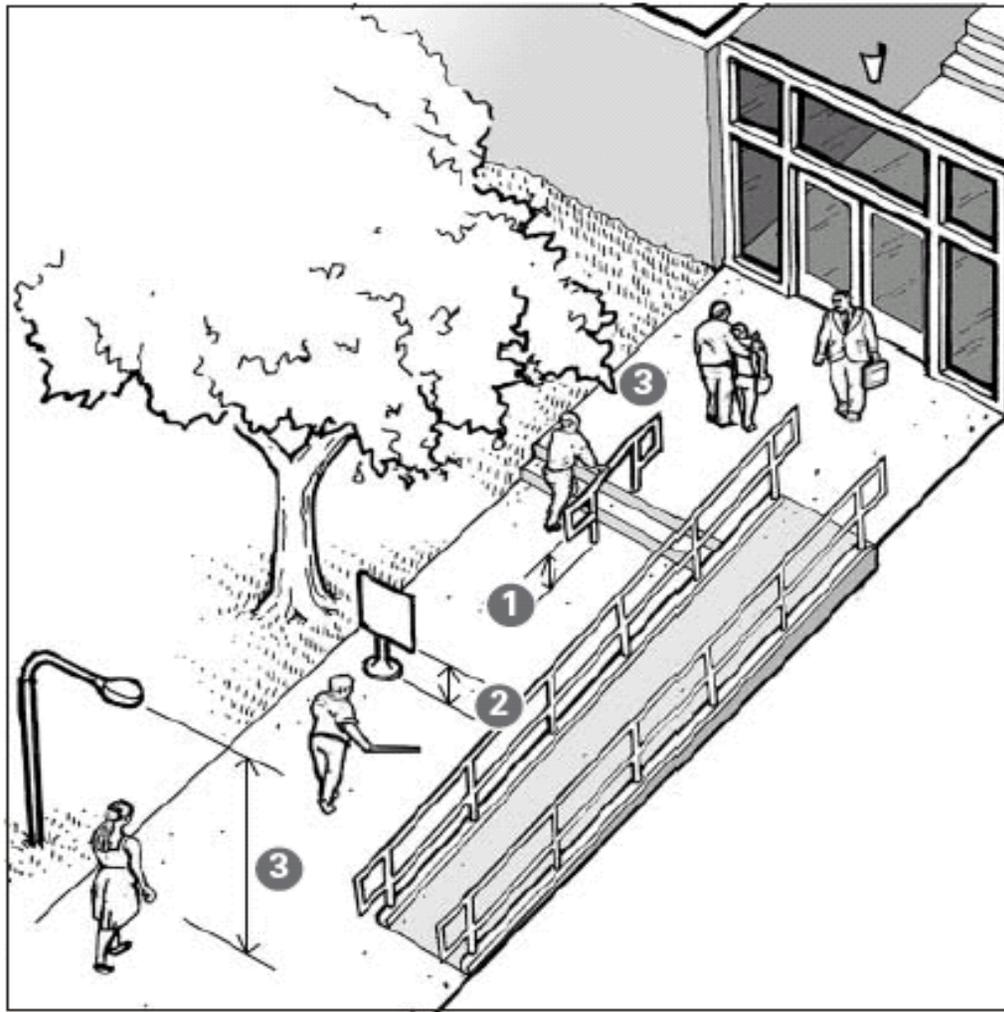
O – Other Elements

U - Usability

Accessible Polling Sites



Elements of Accessible Routes



Common objects along pedestrian routes to a polling place that can be hazards to people who are blind or have low vision.

- Level surfaces
- Ramps
- Elevators
- Wheelchair (platform) lifts
- Doors

Accessible Door Handles



Interior Accessible Route



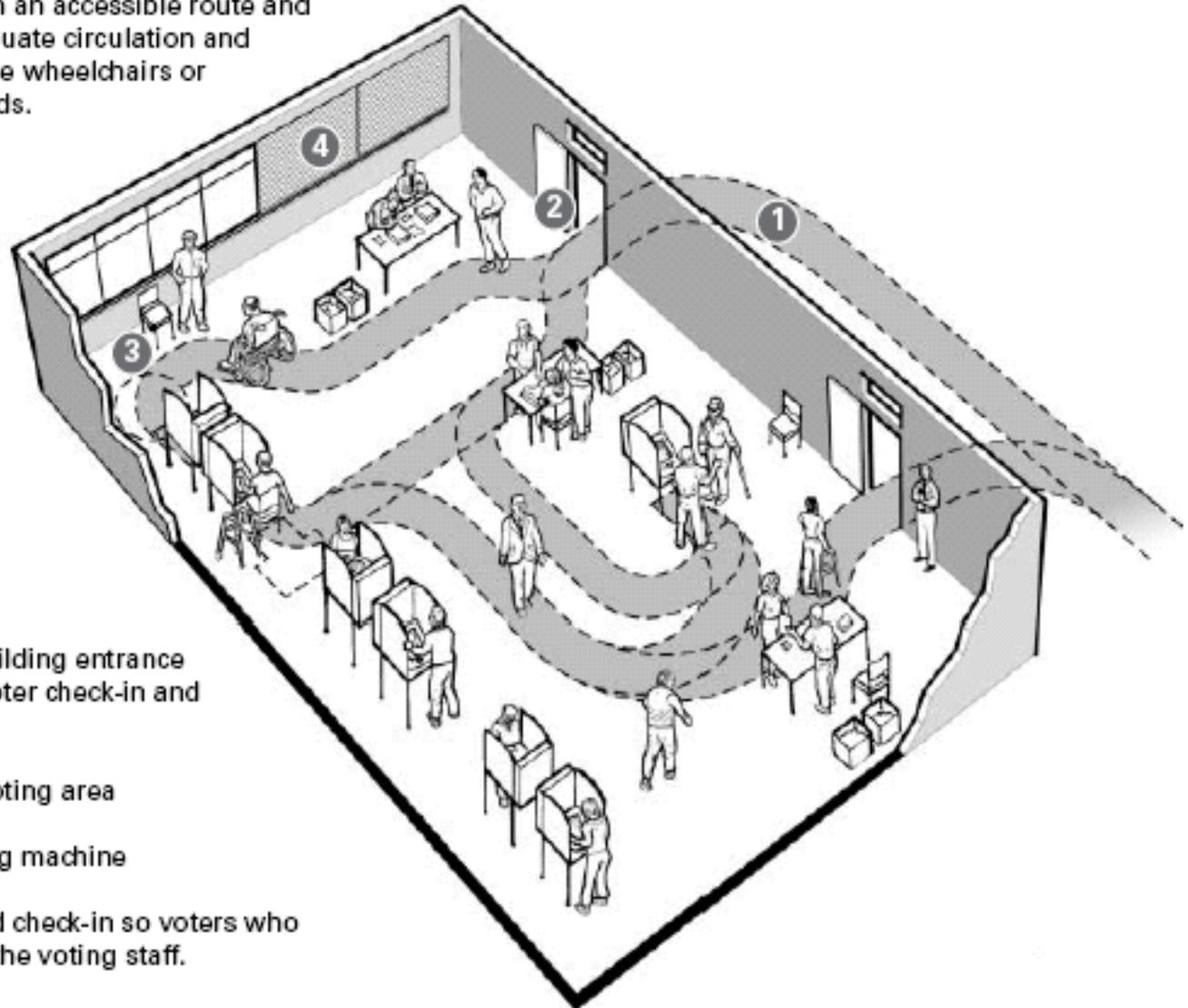
Overhead and wall-mounted objects that may be hazards along a pedestrian route.

Voting Area

Typical Issues

The accessible voting area must be on an accessible route and have an accessible entrance and adequate circulation and maneuvering space for voters who use wheelchairs or scooters or who walk with mobility aids.

An accessible route must connect the accessible building entrance to the accessible voting area, which includes voter check-in and the location of the accessible voting machines. The survey should also identify any protruding objects (wall-mounted or overhead) along the circulation route to voter check-in and the voting area.



Notes:

- 1 Accessible route connects the building entrance with the voting area, including voter check-in and accessible voting machine.
- 2 Accessible door or doorway to voting area
- 3 Turning space at accessible voting machine
- 4 Blinds closed on windows behind check-in so voters who read lips can communicate with the voting staff.

Directional Signage

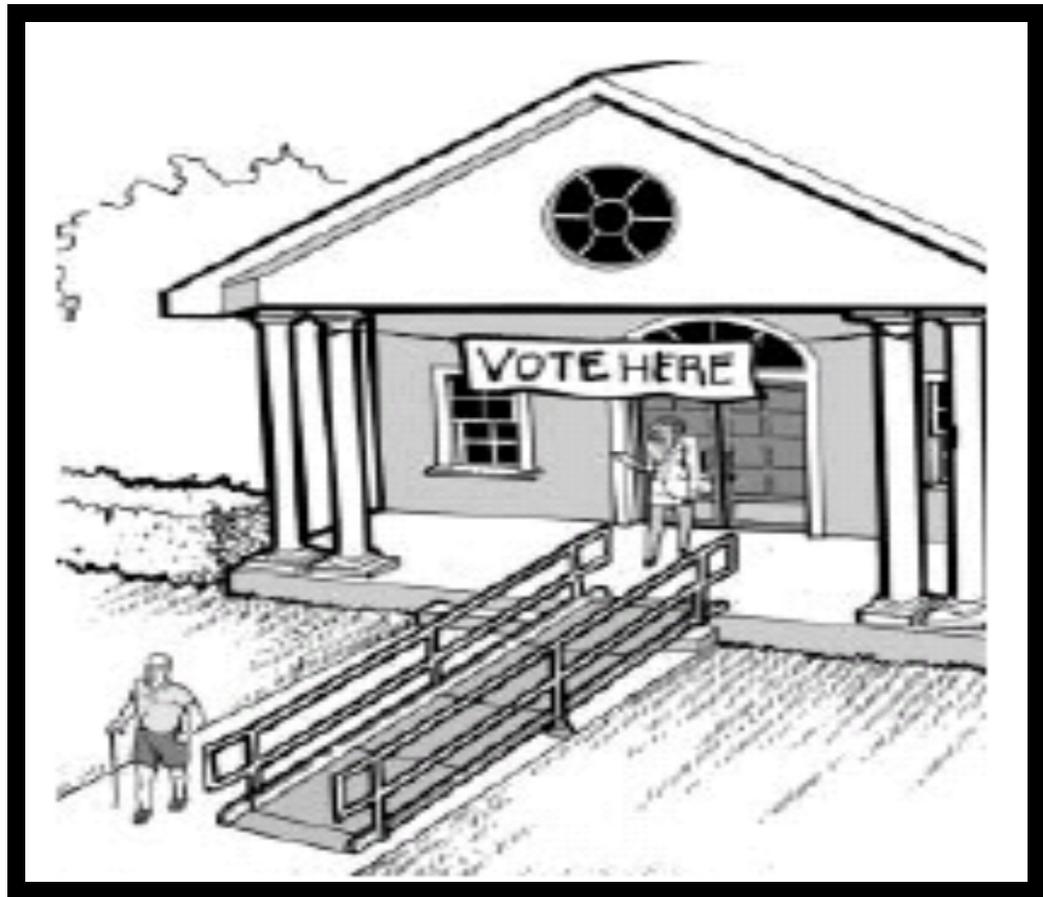


Examples of signs for inaccessible polling place entrances directing a voter to the accessible entrance.

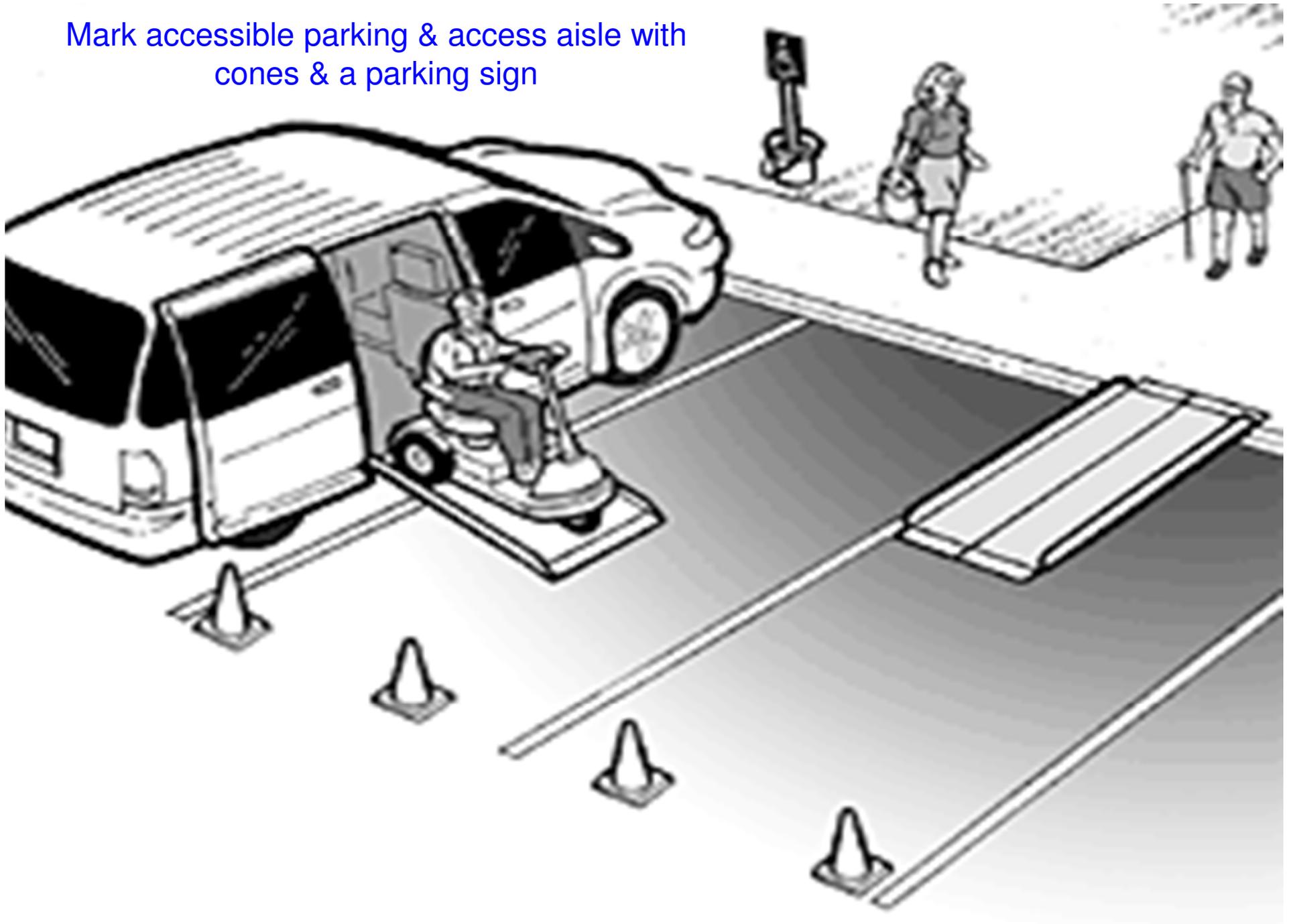


Temporary Solutions

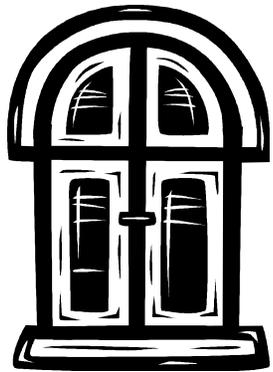
- Parking
- Entrances
- Interiors



Mark accessible parking & access aisle with
cones & a parking sign

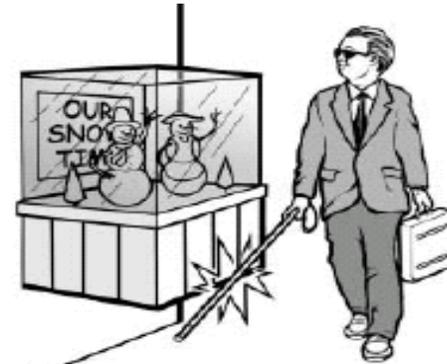
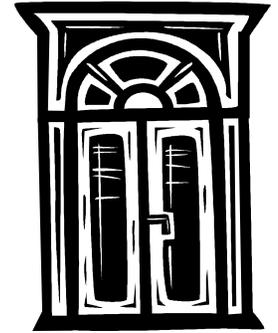


Temporary Solutions



- **Heavy Doors**
prop heavy doors open

- **Protruding Objects**
mark/block with a cone



If the bottom of an object is not more than 27 above the floor, it may extend an unlimited amount from the wall.

Accessible Voting



The ballot marking device will be at every poll site to assist voters with disabilities to vote independently.

We also have magnifying sheets for individuals that need assistance at the ballot marking booth.