



Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections:

Final Report on Survey Results

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Executive Summary

Analysis of the 2020 Disability and Voting Accessibility Survey, based on representative samples of citizens with and without disabilities who were eligible to vote in the November 2020 elections, indicates strong progress in voting accessibility since the comparable 2012 survey. The disability sample includes people with a variety of disabilities, based on Census Bureau measures. Some key results include:

- Voting difficulties among people with disabilities declined markedly from 2012 to 2020.
- About one in nine voters with disabilities encountered difficulties voting in 2020. This is double the rate of people without disabilities.
- Among people with disabilities who voted in person, 18% reported difficulties, compared to 10% of people without disabilities. The disability number is down from 30% in 2012.
- During a general election that saw a shift to voting by mail, 5% of voters with disabilities had difficulties using a mail ballot, compared to 2% of voters without disabilities.
- Five of six (83%) of voters with disabilities voted independently without any difficulty in 2020, compared to over nine of ten (92%) of voters without disabilities.
- One in seven (14%) of voters with disabilities using a mail ballot needed assistance or encountered problems in voting, compared to only 3% of those without disabilities.
- Voting difficulties were most common among people with vision and cognitive impairments.
- Close to three-fourths (74%) of voters with disabilities voted with a mail ballot or early in-person in 2020. This represents a significant increase from 2012 and is higher than the two-thirds of non-disabled voters who did so in 2020.
- People with disabilities voted at a 7% lower rate than people without disabilities of the same age, pointing toward a continuing disability gap in voter turnout.

The decrease in voting difficulties from 2012 to 2020 is good news, though it should be noted that about half of the decrease in polling place difficulties appears due to a change in composition of voters, as those who were most likely to have difficulties at polling places shifted to using mail ballots in the 2020 pandemic. The other half of the decrease, however, appears due to improved polling place accessibility that represents progress by election officials and policy-makers. This interpretation is supported by the finding that among those who voted at a polling place both before and after the pandemic, those with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to say that voting in 2020 was easier than before the pandemic.

This report reviews other key results contained in 32 tables, making comparisons to the 2012 survey where available. These tables cover a variety of aspects of the voting experience, including specific difficulties, need for assistance, confidence that one's vote was accurately counted, treatment by election officials, voter comparisons of 2020 voting to their pre-pandemic experience, and preferred method of voting in the next election. We also provide data on non-voting forms of political participation, political interest, recruitment for voting, and other facilitators of voting. We



break out all results by major disability type (hearing, vision, cognitive, and mobility impairment) and need for help with daily activities.

1. Survey Method Overview

With support from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Rutgers University worked with the survey firm SSRS to conduct a survey of voting-eligible citizens with and without disabilities following the 2020 national elections. The survey was designed to replicate the method and questions of our 2012 post-election survey that was also sponsored by the EAC, with a number of questions added to more fully assess voting by mail ballot which expanded greatly in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The 2020 survey has 2,569 respondents, stratified to include 1,782 citizens with disabilities and 787 citizens without disabilities. As in 2012, the oversampling of citizens with disabilities was done in order to get a large enough sample for small margins of error and reliable breakdowns by major type of disability and demographic variables.

The survey was conducted by SSRS, which is the same firm that did the 2012 survey. The 2012 survey results were published in peer-reviewed political science journals.¹ SSRS is a well-established survey firm that is a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). The 2012 and 2020 surveys were conducted using representative samples combined with state-of-the-art techniques and AAPOR standards. The survey samples are weighted to ensure that they closely reflect the underlying populations of citizens with and without disabilities.

In preparing for the 2020 survey, we conducted two focus groups of voters with disabilities in the 2020 primary elections in order to inform survey design and craft new questions on mail voting, electronic ballot delivery, and preferred methods of voting in the future.

Identification of disability is based on seven questions. The first six questions are used in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement. These questions identify mobility, vision, hearing, and cognitive impairments, and difficulty with self-care or going outside alone. As in 2012, we added a seventh broad question to capture other types of disability. The seven questions are presented in the Appendix. For those identified with a disability, we asked several questions about the nature of the disability (condition, duration, and need for assistance).

The questions about voting and voter engagement are based on validated measures from the Current Population Survey and American National Election Studies (sponsored by the National Science Foundation). Questions about difficulties in voting were developed in consultation with political scientists and representatives of disability organizations.

¹ Lisa Schur, Meera Adya, and Mason Ameri. "Accessible Democracy: Reducing Voting Obstacles for People with Disabilities." *Election Law Journal* Vol. 14, No. 1, 2015, pp. 60-65; Lisa Schur, Mason Ameri, and Meera Adya. "Disability, Voter Turnout, and Polling Place Accessibility," *Social Science Quarterly* Vol. 98, No. 5, November 2017, pp. 1374-1390.



2. Key results

The results are shown in 32 tables at the end of this document. The tables contain a large number of detailed breakdowns; in the discussion below we focus only on what we see as the key results, but we are glad to engage in discussion with the EAC and other interested parties on any of the results. The tables contain asterisks indicating which differences are statistically significant—that is, large enough to be outside the margin of sampling error so that a difference of zero can be statistically rejected at a confidence level of at least 95%.

It is important that the tables be fully accessible for all people with disabilities. We have used several techniques to increase accessibility of the tables, and are willing to take further steps to resolve any accessibility issues.

Following is an overview of the key results from the survey, organized by topic. The key result for each topic is in an initial bolded sentence.

A. Demographic and Disability Characteristics

The sample broadly reflects what we know about the disability population from many other data sources (Tables 1 and 2).

People with disabilities are disproportionately likely to be older and non-married, less likely to have high school or college degrees, and less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (Table 1). They are similar, however, to people without disabilities on breakdowns of gender and geographic region. Within the disability sample (Table 2), mobility impairments are most common (48%), followed by cognitive (24%), hearing (18%), and vision impairments (12%). (Note that a person may fall into more than one of these categories.) Over two-thirds (69%) say they are limited in activities of daily living, and one-third (32%) report needing help in activities of daily living. Just over two-fifths (41%) report “a lot” of difficulty in daily activities.

B. Voter Turnout

Consistent with past patterns, people with disabilities appear slightly less likely than those without disabilities to have voted this year (Table 3).

These results indicate a 3.6 percentage point gap between the turnout of people with and without disabilities, which is lower than the 6.3 point gap found using Census data in 2016.² It should be cautioned, however, that the two data sources use somewhat different methods. We will have a much better sense of the 2020 turnout of people with disabilities when the larger Census sample becomes available for analysis in April, 2021.

² Lisa Schur and Douglas Kruse, “Fact sheet: Disability and Voter Turnout in the 2016 Elections,” Rutgers University, https://smlr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/documents/PressReleases/kruse_and_schur_-_2016_disability_turnout.pdf.



While the 3.6 point disability gap is within the survey’s margin of error, the gap expands to 7.1 percentage points that is outside the margin of error when we adjust for age—that is, when we take account of the fact that older people are more likely to vote by comparing people with and without disabilities who are of the same age. The age-adjusted numbers also show that the lowest turnout occurred among people with vision impairments (an 11.6 point gap compared to people without disabilities) and cognitive impairments (10.3 point gap), while those with hearing impairments voted at close to the same rate as people without disabilities.

The reported turnout numbers are higher than actual turnout, reflecting the well-known phenomenon of survey respondents overreporting socially desirable activities such as voting. Past research on overreporting gives no reason to think that overreporting will differ by disability status.³ Overreporting may slightly decrease the overall estimates of voting difficulties, but there is no reason to think that it will create any bias in comparing voting difficulties between people with and without disabilities.

C. Voting Methods

The substantial shift to mail voting in 2020 compared to 2012 was similar between voters with and without disabilities (Tables 4 and 5).

Between 2012 and 2020 the percentage voting in person at a polling place or election office dropped 28 percentage points both among voters without disabilities (84% to 56%) and voters with disabilities (76% to 49%)(Table 4, first row). While the size of the shift to using a mail ballot was similar, people with disabilities are generally more likely than those without disabilities to vote by mail.⁴ Just under half (49%) of voters with disabilities voted at a polling place or election office in 2020, compared to over half (56%) of voters without disabilities (Table 4). Voters with disabilities were especially likely to return a mail ballot using the postal service, and were no more or less likely than voters without disabilities to use dropboxes or take a ballot to a polling place or election office.

The use of mail ballots was higher for voters with disabilities than for voters without disabilities across the major disability types (Table 5). People with mobility impairments and those needing help with daily activities were the most likely to use mail ballots (55% for each group, compared to 44% among voters without disabilities).

Both early voting and voting by mail are designed to make voting easier. Three-fourths (74%) of voters with disabilities used one of these two methods in 2020, compared to just over two-thirds (69%) of voters without disabilities (Table 4, columns 4 and 5).

³ While no studies have specifically related disability to overreporting, there are mixed results on characteristics related to both disability and overreporting such as age, education, income, religious attendance, and contact by political parties (e.g., Kanazawa, S., “Who Lies on Surveys, and What Can We Do About It.” *Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Studies*, 2005, 30(3):361; Holbrook, A., and J. Krosnick, “Social Desirability Bias in Voter Turnout Reports: Tests Using the Item Count Technique.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 2010, 74(1):37–61; Brenner, P. S., “Overreporting of Voting Participation as a Function of Identity.” *Social Science Journal*, 2012, 49(4):421–29).

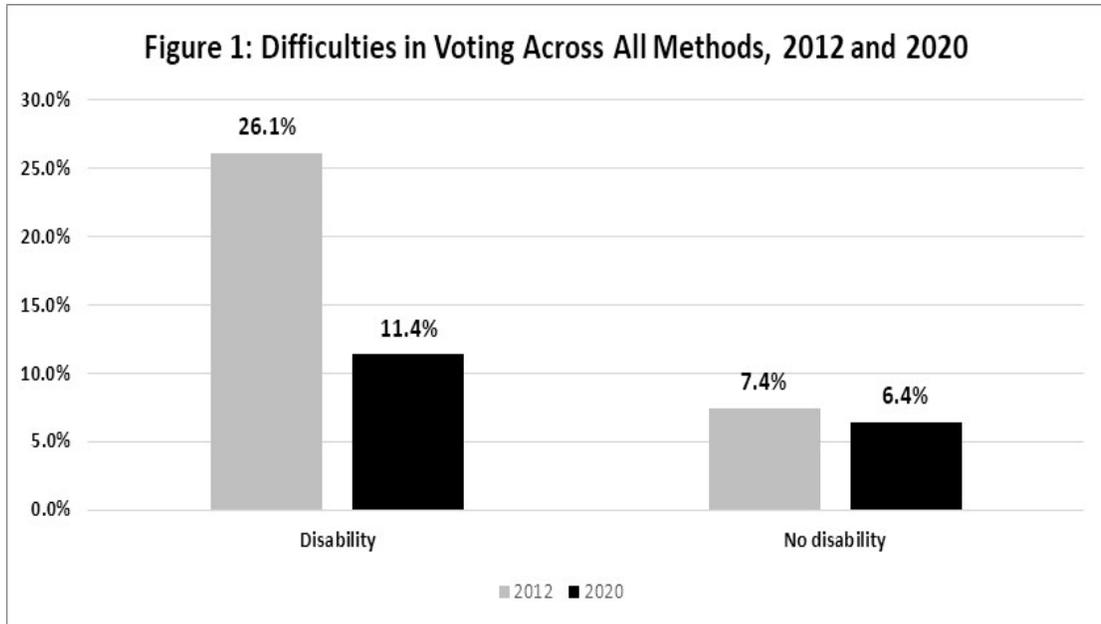
⁴ See 2016 election figures at Schur and Kruse, Op. Cit.



D. Voting Difficulties

The incidence of voting difficulties dropped markedly for voters with disabilities from 2012 to 2020 (Tables 6 to 12).

Overall, the percent of voters with disabilities reporting voting difficulties across all methods dropped from 26% to 11%, compared to a non-significant drop from 7% to 6% among voters without disabilities. This is shown in Figure 1.



Looking just at those who voted in person at a polling place or election office, reported difficulties among voters with disabilities dropped significantly from 30% to 18%, while the corresponding significant drop among voters using mail ballots was 13% to 2%. A broader measure of mail ballot difficulties that includes difficulties in receiving or returning the ballot brings the 2020 disability figure up to 5%.

While the drop in reported difficulties is obviously good news, it is nonetheless noteworthy that the overall rate of difficulties for voters with disabilities in 2020 is almost twice the rate for voters without disabilities (11% compared to 6%). In addition, the rate of difficulties for voters with disabilities is about twice as high both among in-person voters (18% compared to 10%) and mail voters (5% compared to 2%). These disability gaps are outside the margin of error.

Improvements in accessibility versus composition changes among polling place voters

The drop in voting difficulties at polling places may not all be due to improvement in polling place accessibility. A contributing factor may be a composition change, if those who expected the most difficulty in voting, or those who faced the greatest risk from the COVID pandemic, were disproportionately likely to switch to mail ballots in 2020. This would result



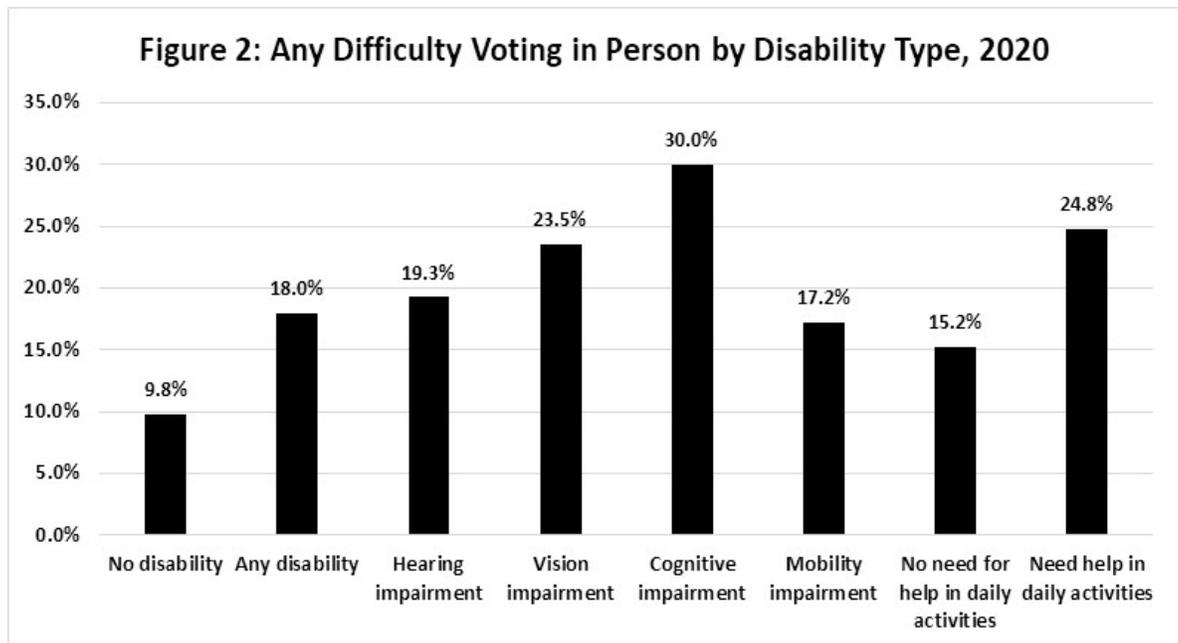
in people with less severe disabilities using polling places in 2020, and consequently having fewer reported difficulties. We can estimate this by comparing the actual 2020 polling place difficulties to the number that would be predicted from 2012 data among people with similar disability types and severity. Using this method, we predict that 24% of polling place voters with disabilities would have difficulties in 2020, which is significantly more than the 18% who actually reported difficulties.

In other words, about half of the 12-point drop in polling place difficulties from 2012 to 2020 (from 30% to 18%) appears due to people with more severe disabilities switching to voting by mail in 2020. The other half of the drop appears due to improved polling place accessibility since 2012, reflecting progress from the efforts of election officials and policy-makers.

Specific difficulties with voting in person

The largest drops in difficulties voting in person in a polling place for voters with disabilities were in difficulty reading or seeing the ballot, and difficulty understanding how to vote or use the voting equipment (Table 7, column 8).

Figure 2 shows difficulty in voting broken down by disability type, summarized from Table 8. Almost one-third of people with cognitive impairments (30%) reported difficulty in voting at a polling place, although the rates of difficulty were also high for other disability types, particularly those needing help in daily activities (25%) and with vision impairments (24%).



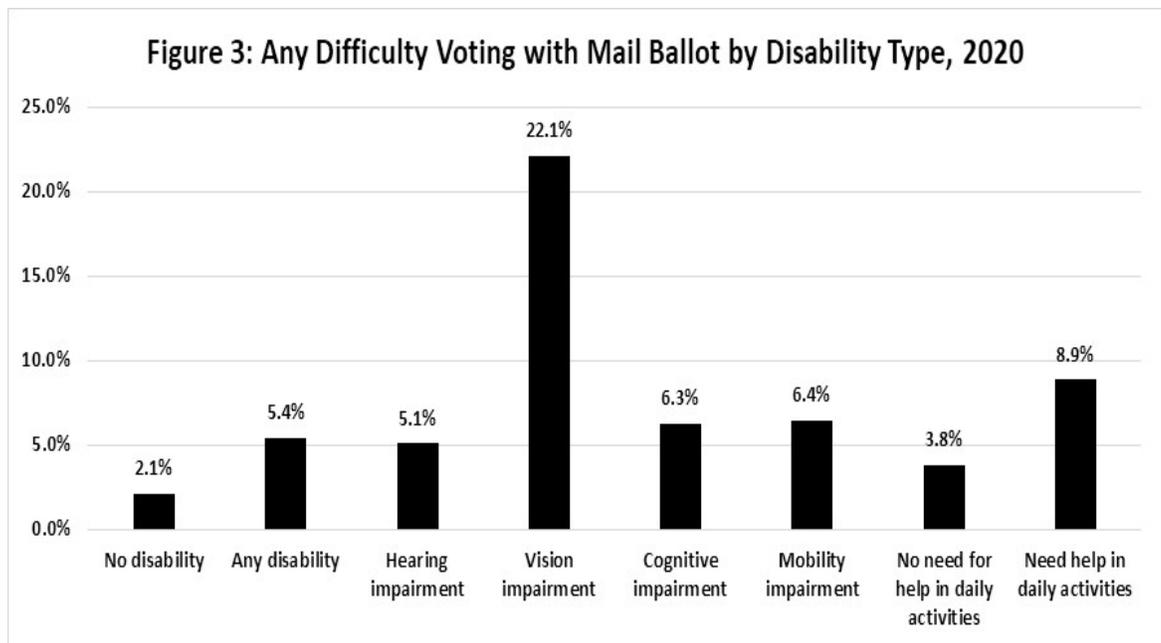


Wait times at polling places

The 2020 survey asked polling place voters how long they had to wait in line to vote. As shown in Table 9, the average wait time was 24 minutes for voters with disabilities, slightly but not significantly less than the average of 29 minutes for voters without disabilities. People with vision impairments had a significantly lower average wait of 13 minutes, perhaps reflecting some of them being taken to the front of the line. Wait times did not otherwise vary significantly by disability type.

Specific difficulties with mail ballots

Among voters with disabilities using mail ballots, the most commonly reported problem was difficulty receiving the ballot (2%, in Table 10, column 5). Just over 1% reported difficulty in reading the ballot, which not surprisingly was most common among voters with vision impairments (6% in Table 11, column 4). Counting all difficulties, voters with vision impairments were clearly the most likely to have difficulty voting with a mail ballot (22%, in Table 11, column 4). The distribution of mail voting difficulties by disability type is shown in Figure 3 below.



Expected voting difficulties among non-voters and those using a different method

As a final way to assess the importance of voting difficulties, the survey asked non-voters if they would expect voting difficulties both in person and using a mail ballot, and asked in-person and mail voters if they would expect difficulties using the other method. As shown in Table 12, about one-fourth of both non-voters and mail voters with disabilities said they would expect difficulties in voting at a polling place (24% and 25% respectively), which were both significantly higher than for people without disabilities. These numbers are only slightly higher than the actual difficulty rate of 18% reported by polling place voters in Table 6. In



contrast, about one-tenth of non-voters and polling place voters with disabilities said they would expect difficulties in voting by mail (10% and 12% respectively), which is higher than the actual 5% rate reported in Table 6.

E. Perceived Ease or Difficulty of Voting

The perceived difficulty of voting was similar in 2020 between voters with and without disabilities, in contrast to 2012 when voters with disabilities were more likely to perceive voting as difficult (Tables 13 and 14).

Both the 2012 and 2020 surveys asked voters for their overall assessment of the voting experience, using the question “Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience in voting at the polling place?” In 2020 a similar question was used to ask about the experience in voting by mail or dropbox.

While there was a significant 10-point gap in 2012 between people with and without disabilities saying that voting at a polling place was “very easy” (76% compared to 86%), the percentage giving this response in 2020 was nearly identical (82% compared to 83%, in Table 13 columns 4 and 5).

Among voters using mail ballots in 2020, people with disabilities were similar to people without disabilities in reporting that voting was “very easy” (79% compared to 81%)(Table 13). However, those with vision or cognitive impairments were significantly less likely to report this (64% and 67% respectively)(Table 14, columns 4 and 5).

F. Voting Difficulty by Race and Ethnicity

Among voters with disabilities in 2020, the average wait time at a polling place was higher for Black non-Hispanic voters, and perceived difficulty in voting at a polling place was higher for Hispanic/Latino voters, relative to White non-Hispanic voters. Other reported voting difficulties did not differ significantly among these groups, but comparisons are limited by small sample sizes (Table 15).

Asked to identify specific voting difficulties in 2020, Black non-Hispanic, Hispanic/Latino, and White non-Hispanic voters with and without disabilities did not vary significantly in their responses, whether voting in person or with a mail ballot.

Asked about wait times, however, Black non-Hispanic voters with disabilities reported an average 45.3 minutes waiting at a polling place compared to only 19.2 minutes among White non-Hispanic voters with disabilities (Table 15, columns 1 and 3). Also, while their cites of specific difficulties were not significantly higher, Hispanic/Latino voters with disabilities had a higher average score on perceived difficulty in voting in a polling place relative to White non-Hispanic voters with disabilities (columns 2 and 3).



The estimates for Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic/Latino voters should be treated with caution since the sample sizes are small when broken down by disability status. While the samples are large enough to produce two significant differences, some of the other observed differences would likely be significant with larger sample sizes. These results should therefore be treated as exploratory information on the voting experiences of people with disabilities by race and ethnicity.

G. Need for Assistance in Voting

Fewer voters with disabilities reported needing assistance in 2020 compared to 2012 when voting at a polling place or using a mail ballot (Tables 16 and 17).

Among those voting at a polling place, the percent of people with disabilities needing assistance dropped markedly from 2012 to 2020 (30% to 6%)(columns 2 and 5, Table 16). There was also a drop in voters using mail ballots who needed assistance in completing the ballot (11% to 5%). The 2020 figure for mail ballots, however, increases to 11% when also including need for assistance in returning the ballot (which was not asked about in the 2012 survey).

Among those needing assistance at a polling place in 2020, election officials were the most likely to provide such assistance for voters both with and without disabilities (54% and 90% respectively), though close to one-fourth of voters with disabilities relied on either a family member (19%) or home aide (6%)(Table 16, columns 4 and 5).

One concern is that among those saying they needed assistance, one-sixth (17%) of voters with disabilities at a polling place said they did not receive it (Table 16, column 5).

A breakdown of need for assistance at a polling place by disability type shows that the need was highest among those with vision impairments (16%)(Table 17, column 4).

Among voters using mail ballots, close to one-ninth (11%) of voters with disabilities reported needing assistance in voting, with 5% needing assistance in completing the ballot and 10% needing assistance in returning the ballot (Table 16, column 5). Family members were the most likely to provide such assistance, though just under one-tenth (8%) relied on friends or neighbors and 7% relied on home health aides (Table 16, column 5).

A breakdown of need for assistance with a mail ballot by disability type shows that the need was highest among those with vision impairments (25%) and those needing help with daily activities (22%)(Table 17, columns 4 and 8).

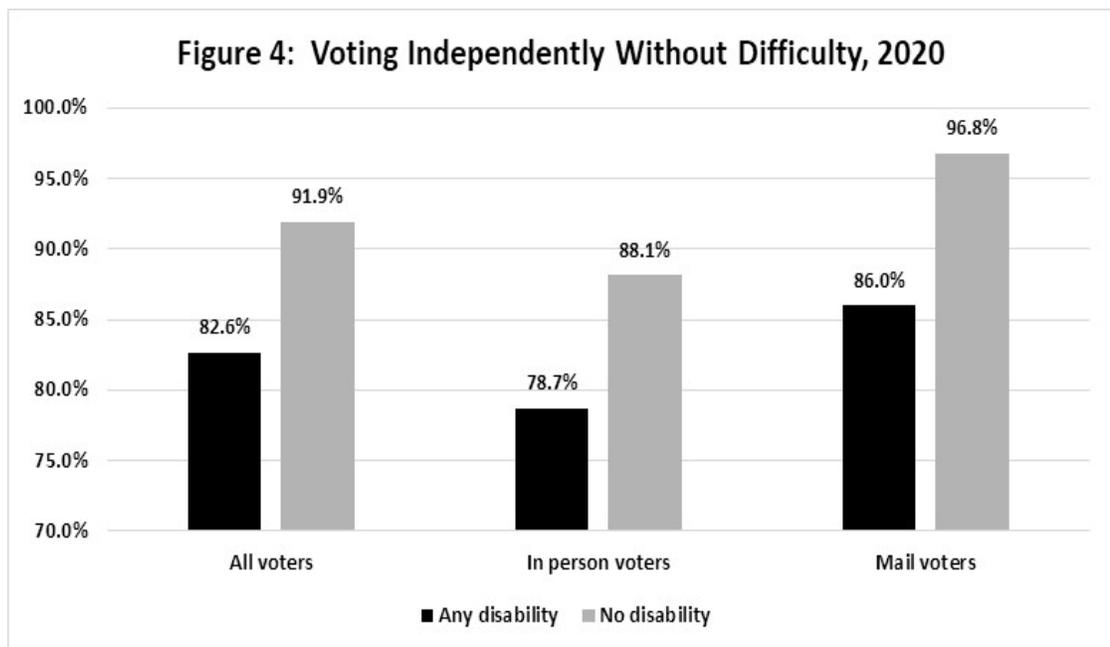


H. Voting Independently Without Difficulty

Close to five-sixths of voters with disabilities in 2020 reported voting independently (not needing assistance) without any difficulty, compared to over nine-tenths of voters without disabilities. The rate was lower among in-person voters than among mail voters with disabilities, and was lowest among voters with vision impairments (Table 18).

Combining the survey measures on voting difficulties and need for assistance, we can calculate what percentage of voters were able to vote independently without difficulty. As shown in Figure 4 below, 83% of voters with disabilities were able to vote independently without difficulty, compared to 92% of voters without disabilities.

Put another way, about one-sixth (17%) of voters with disabilities needed assistance and/or had difficulty voting, which was twice as high as among voters with disabilities (8%).



The likelihood of voting independently without difficulty was lower for people with disabilities than for people without disabilities both among in-person voters (79% compared to 88%) and voters using mail ballots (86% compared to 97%). This likelihood was low across all the types of disability, and was especially low for mail voters with vision impairments (65%) and in-person voters with cognitive impairments (67%)(Table 18, columns 4 and 5).



I. Perceived Treatment by Election Officials

While the perceived respect from election officials appeared to decline for both voters with and without disabilities from 2012 to 2020, voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities in 2020 to report that election officials in polling places were “very respectful” toward them (Tables 19 and 20).

The comparison between 2012 and 2020 is limited by the rotation of answer options in 2020 to control for order effects (not done in 2012). Using the same option orders in 2012 and 2020, there was a decline in the reported respectfulness of election officials toward voters both with and without disabilities (Table 19, columns 7 and 8). This may be related to unusually high turnout and stress in the 2020 election due in part to the pandemic.

When using the full 2020 sample that included the rotation of answer options, voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to report that election officials were “very respectful” toward them in 2020 (84% compared to 77%). The 2020 pattern is similar across disability types, with people with mobility impairments being most likely to report that election officials were “very respectful” (87%)(Table 20, column 6).

J. Received Accessible Voting Information Before 2020 Election

Most voters with and without disabilities said they received information on their voting options that was accessible and met their needs, but voters with cognitive impairments were less likely to report this (Table 21).

Voters were asked “Before you cast your vote in the 2020 elections, did you get information about your voting options that was accessible and met your needs?” Just over four-fifths of voters with and without disabilities replied yes (82% and 83% respectively), while close to 12% of each group said they did not get any information on voting options, 3-4% said that the information did not meet their needs, and about 1% said the information was not accessible. The only disability group with significantly worse scores on this question was people with cognitive impairments, of whom only 77% said they received accessible information that meet their needs, and 20% said they did not receive any information on their voting options.

K. Confidence That Vote Was Accurately Counted

Voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to say they are “highly confident” their vote was accurately counted in 2020 (Table 22).

Two-thirds (68%) of voters with disabilities said they are highly confident their vote was accurately counted in 2020, compared to 59% of voters without disabilities. Close to one-eighth (13%) of each group said they are “not very confident” or “not at all confident” their vote was accurately counted. The results are very similar for in-person voters and mail voters among those both with and without disabilities.



L. Voter Comparisons of 2020 Voting to Pre-pandemic Experience

Asked to compare voting in 2020 with the last time they voted before the pandemic, most voters with and without disabilities saw little difference in the ease or difficulty of voting in 2020, though reports of easier voting in 2020 were most likely for those who voted by mail in 2020 but in person before the pandemic (Table 23).

We asked for voters' subjective impressions of voting compared to the last time they voted before the pandemic. Overall about one-fourth said it was somewhat or much easier (27% of voters with disabilities and 24% of voters without disabilities), while similar numbers said it was "about the same" (63% and 64%), and voters with disabilities were slightly less likely to say it was somewhat or much more difficult (10% compared to 12%). Close to half of people who voted by mail in 2020 but in person before the pandemic said that voting was easier this year (49% of voters without disabilities and 53% of voters with disabilities).

Another noteworthy result is that among those who voted in person both in 2020 and before the pandemic, voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to say that voting was somewhat or much easier in 2020 (23% compared to 13%). This is consistent with the decreased reports of voting difficulties since 2012, and the idea that polling places are becoming more accessible.

M. Preference for How to Vote in Next Election

About half of citizens with disabilities would prefer to vote in person in the next election, compared to three-fifths of citizens without disabilities (Table 24).

Both 2020 voters and non-voters were asked "If you wanted to vote in the next election, how would you prefer to cast your vote?" Five options were presented to the respondents, and the options were randomly rotated to avoid any bias from the order of the options. The most popular option was voting in person inside a polling place, chosen by close to half (49%) of people with disabilities and three-fifths (61%) of people without disabilities. The next most popular option was receiving and sending a ballot by mail or dropbox, chosen by one-third (32%) of people with disabilities and one-fifth (19%) of people without disabilities. Choices among the remaining three options did not differ significantly by disability status: about one-eighth (12-14%) chose voting fully online by personal computer or smartphone, 4-5% chose filling out a ballot online and then printing and mailing it, and 3% chose voting by drive through or curbside.

Comparing the preferences of 2020 voters and non-voters, in-person voting was most popular among both groups, but in place of mail voting as a second choice, the next most popular choice for non-voters with and without disabilities was voting fully online (27% and 20% respectively). The relatively new option of filling out a ballot online, and then printing it out and mailing it, has promise for enabling people with vision impairments to vote confidentially



at home. It was chosen by only 5% of people with disabilities, and people with vision impairments, perhaps reflecting lack of familiarity.

N. Non-voting Political Participation

Several forms of non-voting political participation stayed constant among people with disabilities from 2012 to 2020, but declined among people without disabilities (Tables 25 and 26).

In addition to measuring voting, the survey measured several other types of non-voting political participation, such as contributing to or working for a political candidate. Just under half of people with and without disabilities (45% and 43% respectively) engaged in at least one of the eight activities measured. People with hearing impairments were most likely to engage in one or more of the activities (58%), and people with cognitive impairments were least likely to do so (28%)(Table 26, columns 3 and 5).

Apart from the clearly political activities, 4% of people with disabilities reported having “worked to change a private organization’s policies or practices affecting people with disabilities, such as through talking to business owners, or filing lawsuits.”

O. Political Interest and Perceptions of Political Efficacy

People with disabilities expressed more political interest than did people without disabilities in 2020. While they express lower perceptions of political efficacy than do people without disabilities, these disability gaps narrowed from 2012 to 2020 (Tables 27 and 28).

Just over half (53%) of people with disabilities said they follow politics “most of the time” in 2020, compared to only two-fifths (42%) of people without disabilities (Table 27, columns 4 and 5). This percentage was highest among those with hearing impairments (61%) and mobility impairments (58%)(Table 28).

Perceptions of one’s personal political competence (“internal efficacy”) and the responsiveness of the political system (“external efficacy”) have both been found to strongly influence political participation. Past research has found people with disabilities to have lower average scores on both measures, helping to account for their lower voter turnout.⁵ Using standard measures of internal and external efficacy, this survey finds that people with

⁵ Lisa Schur, Todd Shields, and Kay Schriener, “Can I Make A Difference? Efficacy, Employment, and Disability,” *Political Psychology*, Vol. 24, No. 1, March 2003, pp. 119-149; Lisa Schur, Todd Shields, Douglas Kruse, and Kay Schriener, “Enabling Democracy: Disability and Voter Turnout,” *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 55, No. 1, March 2002, pp. 167-190.



disabilities have lower average scores on both measures. Perceptions of internal efficacy, however, significantly improved among people with disabilities from 2012 to 2020, while perceptions of external efficacy changed very little (Table 27, column 8).

The survey also asked specifically about the perceived influence of, and respect for, people with disabilities in politics. People both with and without disabilities perceived lower influence of people with disabilities in 2020 compared to 2012, while the perceived respect of government officials for people with disabilities did not change significantly among either group (Table 27, columns 7 and 8). Both measures had the lowest scores in 2020 among people with cognitive impairments (Table 28, column 5).

P. Recruitment for Voting

People with and without disabilities were equally likely to have someone talk to them about registering to vote or getting out to vote in both 2012 and 2020 (Tables 29 and 30).

Having someone talk to you about voting is a strong predictor of voter turnout. While people with disabilities are more socially isolated in general, they were equally likely in both years to report that someone talked to them about registering or getting out to vote (close to 40% among both groups in both years)(Table 29, columns 1, 2, 4 and 5).

People with hearing and mobility impairments were the least likely to report being recruited for voting in 2020 (29% and 33% respectively)(Table 30, columns 3 and 6).

Not surprisingly, the low employment levels of people with disabilities led to especially low rates of being recruited for voting by co-workers (Table 30).

Q. Other Facilitators of Political Participation

The political participation of people with disabilities is constrained by their lower access to personal vehicles for transportation, and lower employment, income, and education levels. They are, however, equally likely as people without disabilities to meet regularly with groups and more likely to attend religious services every week (Tables 31 and 32).

Political participation is shaped by transportation access, social connections, and economic and educational resources. People with disabilities are less likely than those without disabilities to have a car they can drive (70% compared to 90%) or to use their own or a family vehicle (83% compared to 93%)(Table 31, columns 1 and 2). Their transportation needs are disproportionately met by someone else's vehicle, taxi or rideshare, or para-transit. They are similar to people without disabilities in their reports of transportation problems, except that they are more likely to say that they "always" have transportation problems (3% compared to 1%), and those with vision and cognitive impairments are less likely to say they "never or rarely" have transportation problems (47% and 59%)(Table 31, columns 4 and 5).



Looking at other facilitators of participation, employment can provide both economic resources and social connections that encourage participation. People with disabilities have much lower employment levels than do people without disabilities in 2020 (24% compared to 60%)(Table 32). Also consistent with other data sources, they have lower average income levels and are less likely to have Bachelor's or graduate degrees.

People with disabilities do not appear to face gaps, however, in other measures of social connections: just over one-fourth of people both with and without disabilities report meeting regularly with any groups or organizations (28% and 27% respectively), and people with disabilities are more likely to say they attend religious services every week (18% compared to 12%)(Table 32, columns 1 and 2).

In follow-up research, we will use these data to examine how these and other facilitators help to shape voting and other political participation among people with and without disabilities.

3. Conclusion

The results show significant progress has been made in voting accessibility since 2012. This reflects well on the efforts of the EAC, election officials, policy-makers, and disability organizations. Nevertheless voters with disabilities remain significantly more likely than those without disabilities to experience voting difficulties, indicating that more work needs to be done to improve accessibility. We are glad to answer any questions, or provide clarification, on these results. We look forward to working with the EAC to make these results as useful as possible.



Appendix: Survey Questions to Identify Disability

Note: The first six questions are used by the Census Bureau in the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey. The seventh question was designed for the 2012 and 2020 disability and voting accessibility surveys in order to capture other types of disability. A “yes” response to any of these questions qualifies a respondent as having a disability.

1. Are you deaf or have serious difficulty hearing?
2. Are you blind or have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
4. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
5. Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
6. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?
7. Do you have a long-term health problem or impairment that limits the kind or amount of work, housework, or other activities you can do?



Table 1: Demographic Characteristics in 2020 Survey

Key results: People with disabilities in this sample are older and less likely to be married or have college degrees than those without disabilities, but are similar in gender and regional breakdown.

	Non-disability sample	Disability sample	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	
Female	51.4%	52.4%	
Male	48.5%	47.0%	
Black non-Hispanic/Latino	13.1%	12.2%	
Hispanic/Latino	14.3%	10.1%	*
White non-Hispanic/Latino	64.7%	70.7%	*
Other race/ethnicity	7.8%	6.0%	
Age 18-34	25.3%	10.2%	**
Age 35-49	39.7%	18.6%	**
Age 50-64	22.7%	29.2%	**
Age 65+	12.3%	42.1%	**
Married, spouse present	52.4%	41.5%	**
Separated/divorced	10.6%	20.9%	**
Widowed	4.9%	15.0%	**
Never married	32.1%	22.6%	**
No HS degree	7.8%	14.7%	**
HS degree/GED	27.9%	32.2%	
Some college, no degree	18.8%	20.2%	
Associate's degree	12.4%	10.7%	
Bachelor's degree	22.0%	13.8%	**
Graduate degree	11.1%	8.5%	
Northeast	18.7%	16.2%	
Midwest	20.6%	22.1%	
South	37.6%	39.7%	
West	23.0%	22.0%	
Sample size	787	1,782	

* Difference between disability and non-disability samples is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 2: Disability Characteristics in 2020 Survey

Key results: Half of those in the disability sample have mobility impairments, while one-eighth to one-fourth have hearing, vision, or cognitive impairments. One-third need help in daily activities.

	Disability Sample
Total	100.0%
Hearing impairment	17.8%
Totally deaf	0.9%
Vision impairment	12.0%
Totally blind	1.4%
Cognitive impairment	23.8%
Mobility impairment	47.8%
Wheelchair user	7.4%
Cane or crutches user	26.1%
Difficulty dressing or bathing	12.7%
Difficulty going outside alone	26.6%
Limited in activities of daily living	68.7%
Need help in activities of daily living	31.9%
Level of difficulty with activities:	
Hardly at all	6.4%
A little	16.5%
Some	36.4%
A lot	40.6%
Sample size	1,782



Table 3: Voter Registration and Turnout in 2020

Key results: People with disabilities were 7 points less likely to vote than those without disabilities after adjusting for age. The voting gaps were largest for people with vision and cognitive impairments.

	Non- disability sample (1)	Disability sample (2)	Disability gap (3)
Registered to vote	90.9%	89.1%	-1.7%
Voted	83.6%	80.0%	-3.6%
Disability voting gap adjusted for age^			
Any disability			-7.1% **
Hearing impairment			1.9%
Vision impairment			-11.6% **
Cognitive impairment			-10.3% **
Mobility impairment			-6.5%
Disability but no need for help with daily activities			-5.6% *
Disability with need for help in daily activities			-7.6% *
Sample size	787	1,782	

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level

^ Age-adjusted estimates represent comparisons between people with and without disabilities who are the same age. Based on probit regressions predicting voting that control for age and age squared.



Table 4: Voting Methods Among Those Who Voted, 2012 and 2020

Key results: The increase in mail voting was identical between voters with and without disabilities from 2012 to 2020. Just over half of people with disabilities voted by mail in 2020, compared to 44% of voters without disabilities. The use of dropboxes was similar between the two groups. Three-fourths of people with disabilities either voted with a mail ballot or voted early at a polling place or election office.

Voting method	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
In person at polling place or election office	83.6%	76.2%	-7.4% **	56.1%	48.7%	-7.3% *	-27.5% **	-27.5% **	0.0%
In person on election day	65.3%	56.6%	-8.7% **	31.2%	24.8%	-6.4% *	-34.1% **	-31.8% **	2.3%
In person before election day	18.2%	19.4%	1.2%	24.8%	23.9%	-0.9%	6.6% *	4.5%	-2.1%
Mail ballot--any use	16.4%	23.8%	7.4% **	43.9%	51.3%	7.3% *	27.5% **	27.5% **	0.0%
Received ballot by computer	na	na	na	1.3%	1.3%	0.0%	na	na	na
Sent ballot by postal service	na	na	na	17.5%	27.5%	10.0% **	na	na	na
Delivered ballot to dropbox	na	na	na	17.7%	15.7%	-2.0%	na	na	na
Took mail ballot to polling place or election office before election day	na	na	na	7.1%	5.2%	-1.8% *	na	na	na
Took mail ballot to polling place or election office on election day	na	na	na	1.0%	1.7%	0.7%	na	na	na
Voted early or with mail ballot	34.7%	43.2%	8.5% *	68.8%	74.2%	5.4% *	34.1% **	31.0% **	-3.1%
Sample size	865	1,505		690	1,494				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 5: Voting Methods by Type of Disability, 2020

Key results: Mail voting was most common among people with mobility impairments and those who need help in daily activities.

Voting method	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
In person at polling place	56.1%	48.7% *	52.0%	51.5%	49.9%	45.3% **	50.4%	45.1% **
In person on election day	31.2%	24.8% *	27.7%	24.6%	28.3%	24.1% *	25.8%	22.6% *
in person before election day	24.8%	23.9%	24.3%	27.0%	21.6%	21.1%	24.5%	22.5%
Mail ballot--any use	43.9%	51.3% *	48.0%	48.5%	50.1%	54.7% **	49.6%	54.9% **
Received ballot by computer	1.3%	1.3%	1.9%	3.0%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	2.2%
Sent ballot by postal service	17.5%	27.5%	28.2% **	26.2%	27.6% **	31.0% **	26.0% **	31.1% **
Delivered ballot to dropbox	17.7%	15.7%	11.8% *	14.9%	15.0%	16.9%	15.8%	15.5%
Took mail ballot to polling place or election office before election day	7.1%	5.2%	5.2%	2.3% **	5.3%	3.9% *	5.4%	4.7%
Took mail ballot to polling place or election office on election day	1.0%	1.7%	1.9%	2.7%	0.9%	1.4%	1.4%	2.1%
Voted early or with mail ballot	68.8%	74.2% *	71.1%	71.9%	69.2%	74.6%	73.8%	75.1%
Sample size	690	1,494	243	147	294	696	1,032	456

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 6: Any Voting Difficulties in 2012 and 2020

Key results: The percent of voters with disabilities reporting any voting difficulties declined from 26% in 2012 to 11% in 2020, but changed little for voters without disabilities. Over one-sixth (18%) of voters with disabilities reported difficulties voting in person in 2020, and 5% reported difficulties in voting by mail, which were about twice the rates among voters without disabilities. Specific voting difficulties are presented in Tables 7 to 11.

Voting difficulties	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Any difficulty in voting across all methods	7.4%	26.1%	18.7% **	6.4%	11.4%	5.0% **	-1.0%	-14.7% **	-13.8% **
If voted in person: any difficulty in voting	8.4%	30.1%	21.7% **	9.8%	18.0%	8.1% **	1.4%	-12.2% **	-13.6% **
If used mail ballot: any difficulty in voting (receiving, reading, understanding, filling out, or returning ballot)	na	na	na	2.1%	5.4%	3.3% *	na	na	na
If used mail ballot: any difficulty in reading, understanding, or filling out mail ballot	2.2%	13.4%	11.2% **	0.7%	2.3%	1.6%	-1.4%	-11.1% **	-9.7% **
Sample size	865	1505		619	986				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 7: Specific In-Person Voting Difficulties in 2012 and 2020

Key results: The biggest declines in voting difficulties for people with disabilities between 2012 and 2020 were in difficulty reading or seeing the ballot, and difficulty understanding how to vote or use the voting equipment.

Types of voting difficulties	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Any difficulty in voting in person at polling place or election office	8.4%	30.1%	21.7% **	9.8%	18.0%	8.1% **	1.4%	-12.2% **	-13.6% **
1. Difficulty in finding or getting to the polling place	1.6%	5.9%	4.4%	2.3%	1.4%	-0.9%	0.7%	-4.5%	-5.3%
2. Difficulty getting inside the polling place (for example, steps)	0.2%	3.5%	3.3% **	0.4%	3.2%	2.7% **	0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%
3. Difficulty waiting in line	3.5%	8.3%	4.8% *	6.2%	7.4%	1.2%	2.7%	-0.9%	-3.6%
4. Difficulty reading or seeing the ballot	0.9%	11.7%	10.8% **	0.0%	3.8%	3.8% **	-0.9% *	-7.9% **	-7.0% *
5. Difficulty understanding how to vote or use the voting equipment	1.3%	10.3%	9.0% **	2.9%	2.7%	-0.2%	1.6%	-7.6% **	-9.2% **
6. Difficulty communicating with poll workers or other officials at the polling place	1.2%	1.6%	0.4%	0.6%	2.1%	1.5%	-0.7%	0.5%	1.1%
7. Difficulty writing on the ballot	0.3%	4.5%	4.3%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2% *	-0.3%	-3.3%	-3.0%
8. Difficulty operating the voting machine	0.9%	1.3%	0.4%	0.9%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.3%
9. Other type of difficulty in voting	0.6%	3.8%	3.2%	0.3%	1.8%	1.5% *	-0.3%	-2.0%	-1.7%
Sample size	710	1,038		371	697				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 8: Specific In-Person Voting Difficulties by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: The most common in-person voting difficulty was waiting in line, for people both with and without disabilities. Close to one-third of people with cognitive impairments, and one-fourth of people with vision impairments, had difficulties voting in person.

Types of voting difficulties	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
Any difficulty in voting in person at polling place or election office	9.8%	18.0% **	19.3%	23.5%	30.0% **	17.2% *	15.2%	24.8% **
1. Difficulty in finding or getting to the polling place	2.3%	1.4%	1.0%	3.8%	3.6%	1.2%	0.8%	3.1%
2. Difficulty in getting inside the polling place (for example, steps)	0.4%	3.2% **	1.6%	1.1%	2.4%	5.1% **	2.1%	6.0% *
3. Difficulty waiting in line	6.2%	7.4%	8.5%	1.4% **	11.2%	5.1%	7.1%	8.1%
4. Difficulty reading or seeing the ballot	0.0%	3.8% **	4.1%	20.5% **	7.4% *	5.2% **	1.5% *	9.7% **
5. Difficulty understanding how to vote or use the voting equipment	2.9%	2.7%	0.9%	2.2%	3.5%	2.9%	2.6%	2.9%
6. Difficulty communicating with poll workers or other officials at the polling place	0.6%	2.1%	3.2%	1.1%	2.5%	2.6%	1.3%	3.8%
7. Difficulty writing on the ballot	0.0%	1.2% *	0.9%	1.2%	2.3%	2.2%	0.5%	3.2%
8. Difficulty operating the voting machine	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	4.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	1.2%
9. Other type of difficulty in voting	0.3%	1.8% *	4.0%	2.2%	4.3%	1.2%	1.7%	2.0%
Sample size	371	697	124	72	139	298	506	189

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 9: Wait Time for In-Person Voting by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: The average wait time for in-person voting was slightly lower for voters with disabilities, and especially low for people with vision impairments, compared to voters without disabilities..

Length of time waiting to vote among in-person voters	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
Average wait time in minutes	28.8	23.7	29.1	12.5 **	21.5	22.9	25.2	20.0
Median wait time in minutes	10	10	10	10	10	5	10	6
Less than 10 minutes	52.3%	57.3%	59.8%	64.1%	55.8%	63.3% *	54.7%	64.0% *
11-20 minutes	15.5%	17.3%	20.6%	22.7%	24.2%	14.1%	19.8%	11.0%
21-30 minutes	10.7%	8.5%	4.3% *	6.8%	7.3%	7.9%	6.8%	12.9%
31-60 minutes	11.2%	10.0%	6.9%	5.4%	8.1%	7.8%	11.2%	6.7%
61-120 minutes	7.3%	4.5%	2.5% *	1.0% **	2.3% **	3.8%	4.9%	3.3%
More than two hours	3.0%	2.4%	6.0%	0.0% **	2.2%	3.1%	2.5%	2.1%
Sample size	363	650	108	69	126	277	474	175

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 10: Specific Mail Voting Difficulties in 2012 and 2020

Key results: Reported difficulty in reading or filling out a mail ballot dropped between 2012 and 2020 from 11% to 2% among mail voters with disabilities, while 5% reported difficulty receiving, reading, understanding, filling out, or returning a mail ballot in 2020. The most common problem was receiving the ballot, followed by filling out and returning the ballot.

Types of mail voting difficulties	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Any difficulty receiving, returning, reading, understanding, or filling out ballot	na	na	na	2.1%	5.4%	3.3% *	na	na	na
Any difficulty reading, understanding, or filling out ballot	2.2%	13.4%	11.2% **	0.7%	2.3%	1.6%	-1.4%	-11.1% **	-9.7% **
Difficulty reading mail ballot	1.7%	7.4%	5.7% **	0.0%	1.4%	1.4% *	-1.7%	-6.0% **	-4.3% *
Difficulty understanding mail ballot	1.0%	3.8%	2.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	-0.6%	-3.4% **	-2.8%
Difficulty filling out mail ballot	0.0%	2.6%	2.6% *	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	-1.8%	-1.8%
Other difficulty completing mail ballot	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.1%	-0.6%	-0.7%
Difficulty receiving mail ballot	na	na	na	1.7%	1.9%	0.2%	na	na	na
Difficulty returning mail ballot	na	na	na	0.0%	0.7%	0.7% *	na	na	na
Sample size	154	462		319	797				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 11: Specific Mail Voting Difficulties by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with vision impairments were the most likely to have difficulty in voting with a mail ballot, with over one-fifth having such difficulty.

Types of mail voting difficulties	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
Any difficulty receiving, returning, reading, understanding, or filling out ballot	2.1%	5.4% *	5.1%	22.1% **	6.3%	6.4% *	3.8%	8.9% **
Any difficulty reading, understanding, or filling out ballot	0.7%	2.3%	1.6%	7.9% *	2.5%	2.5%	1.8%	3.3%
Difficulty reading mail ballot	0.0%	1.4% *	1.6%	5.7% *	1.9%	1.2%	1.0%	2.3%
Difficulty understanding mail ballot	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
Difficulty filling out mail ballot	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	2.2%	0.6%	1.3%	0.4%	1.7%
Other difficulty completing mail ballot	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Difficulty receiving mail ballot	1.7%	1.9%	2.5%	5.9%	3.0%	1.9%	1.7%	2.5%
Difficulty returning mail ballot	0.0%	0.7% *	1.6%	6.7%	2.0%	0.9% *	0.2%	1.9%
Sample size	319	797	119	75	155	398	526	267

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 12: Expected Voting Difficulties by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: About one-fourth of people with disabilities who didn't vote in person in 2020 would expect difficulties in doing so, while about one-tenth of those who didn't vote by mail would expect difficulties in doing so.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
If didn't vote this year								
Would expect difficulties voting in person	1.7%	23.8% **	35.7% **	13.1%	31.3% **	32.5% **	13.7% **	43.9% **
Would expect difficulties voting by mail	3.7%	10.3%	16.9%	19.9%	18.3% *	8.2%	8.9%	13.0%
If voted by mail this year								
Would expect difficulties voting in person	7.3%	24.6% **	20.9% *	33.0% **	17.9%	32.2% **	16.0%	45.7% **
If voted in person this year								
Would expect difficulties voting by mail	9.9%	12.2%	8.5%	17.1%	19.0%	10.9%	12.0%	12.4%
Sample size								
Didn't vote, expect difficulties at poll	73	189	23	25	71	84	121	68
Didn't vote, expect difficulties by mail	92	253	28	36	87	108	161	91
Voted by mail, expect difficulties at poll	117	354	59	39	76	184	235	117
Voted in person, expect difficulties by mail	335	612	103	65	122	267	443	168

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 13: Perceived Ease or Difficulty of Voting in 2012 and 2020

Key results: The perceived difficulty of voting in 2020 was similar between people with and without disabilities, among both in-person and mail voters. This contrasts with 2012 when people with disabilities perceived more difficulty voting in person than did people without disabilities.

"Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience in voting [at the polling place/by mail or dropbox]?"	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
If voted in-person in polling place or election office									
Average score on 1-5 scale	1.19	1.39	0.21 **	1.22	1.25	0.04	0.03	-0.14	-0.17
1. Very easy	86.4%	76.0%	-10.4% **	83.0%	82.1%	-0.9%	-3.4%	6.1%	9.4% *
2. Somewhat easy	11.2%	17.6%	6.4% **	12.6%	13.4%	0.9%	1.4%	-4.1%	-5.5%
3. Neither easy nor difficult	0.7%	0.6%	0.0%	4.2%	2.1%	-2.1%	3.5% *	1.5% *	-2.0%
4. Somewhat difficult	0.8%	2.7%	1.8% **	0.2%	1.9%	1.7% *	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.1%
5. Very difficult	0.9%	3.1%	2.2% **	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	-0.9%	-2.7%	-1.8%
If voted using mail ballot									
Average score on 1-5 scale	na	na	na	1.28	1.30	0.02	na	na	na
1. Very easy	na	na	na	81.2%	79.0%	-2.2%	na	na	na
2. Somewhat easy	na	na	na	12.8%	14.3%	1.5%	na	na	na
3. Neither easy nor difficult	na	na	na	3.7%	4.9%	1.2%	na	na	na
4. Somewhat difficult	na	na	na	2.0%	1.5%	-0.5%	na	na	na
5. Very difficult	na	na	na	0.4%	0.3%	-0.1%	na	na	na
Sample size									
In-person voters	709	1037		332	431				
Voters using mail ballots	na	na		318	794				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 14: Perceived Ease or Difficulty of Voting by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: The perceived difficulty of voting in 2020 was similar across disability types, except people with vision impairments were less likely to say voting was very easy whether in person or by mail, and people with cognitive impairments were less likely to say voting by mail was very easy.

"Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience in voting [at the polling place/by mail or dropbox]?"	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
If voted in-person in polling place or election office								
Average score on 1-5 scale	1.22	1.25	1.33	1.41	1.31	1.26	1.20	1.38
1. Very easy	83.0%	82.1%	78.1%	64.2% *	80.7%	84.2%	84.6%	75.6%
2. Somewhat easy	12.6%	13.4%	15.6%	31.3% *	11.0%	9.7%	12.5%	15.9%
3. Neither easy nor difficult	4.2%	2.1%	2.3%	4.3%	4.9%	2.4%	1.5%	3.9%
4. Somewhat difficult	0.2%	1.9% *	3.4%	0.0%	3.3%	3.1% *	0.9%	4.6% *
5. Very difficult	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.1%
If voted using mail ballot								
Average score on 1-5 scale	1.28	1.30	1.18	1.52 *	1.54 **	1.32	1.27	1.37
1. Very easy	81.2%	79.0%	86.8%	63.8% *	66.5% **	78.8%	80.9%	74.9%
2. Somewhat easy	12.8%	14.3%	8.0%	24.2%	20.4%	12.8%	14.1%	14.8%
3. Neither easy nor difficult	3.7%	4.9%	5.2%	8.8%	7.1%	6.0%	2.7%	9.3% *
4. Somewhat difficult	2.0%	1.5%	0.0% *	2.4%	4.9%	2.2%	1.9%	0.8%
5. Very difficult	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.9%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Sample size								
In-person voters	371	697	124	72	139	298	506	189
Voters using mail ballots	318	794	118	75	154	397	524	266

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 15: Voting Difficulty by Race and Ethnicity in 2020

Key results: Among people with disabilities, the average wait time for voting was higher among Blacks than among White non-Hispanics, and Hispanics/Latinos were more likely than White non-Hispanics to perceive difficulty voting in person, but reports of difficulties did not otherwise vary significantly by race or ethnicity. The comparisons are limited by small sample sizes.

	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latino	White non-Hispanic
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Any voting difficulty across all methods			
If no disability	6.1%	11.4%	5.8%
If have disability	7.6%	12.0%	11.3%
If voted in-person, any difficulty			
If no disability	9.3%	18.2%	8.9%
If have disability	10.7%	20.5%	18.4%
If voted in-person, average wait time in minutes			
If no disability	37.1	27.0	29.4
If have disability	45.3 *	32.6	19.2
If voted with mail ballot, any difficulty			
If no disability	0.0%	4.5%	2.1%
If have disability	3.8%	5.1%	5.0%
If voted in person, perceived difficulty (mean of 1-5 scale)			
If no disability	1.18	1.09 *	1.27
If have disability	1.23	1.74 **	1.18
If voted with mail ballot, perceived difficulty (mean of 1-5 scale)			
If no disability	1.17	1.29	1.30
If have disability	1.44	1.31	1.25
Sample sizes			
All voters, no disability	65	63	517
All voters, disability	131	105	1148
In-person voters, no disability	42	33	270
In-person voters, disability	75	48	518
Mail voters, no disability	23	30	247
Mail voters, disability	56	56	623

* Difference from White non-Hispanics (column 3) is significant at p<.05 ** p<.01



Table 16: Need for Assistance in Voting in 2012 and 2020

Key results: The percent of voters with disabilities needing assistance dropped between 2012 and 2020 from 30% to 6% among in-person voters with disabilities. About one-tenth of mail voters with disabilities needed assistance in completing or returning the ballot. Election officials were most likely to assist in-person voters, and family members were most likely to assist those voting by mail.

	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
If voted in-person, needed assistance in voting	10.7%	29.5%	18.8% **	3.7%	6.2%	2.5%	-7.0% **	-23.3% **	-16.3% **
If needed, who assisted									
Election official	72.9%	39.5%	-33.4% **	89.7%	53.8%	-35.9% **	16.8%	14.4%	-2.4%
Family member	19.8%	43.1%	23.3% **	0.0%	18.5%	18.5% **	-19.8% **	-24.6% **	-4.8%
Friend	2.2%	11.2%	9.0% *	0.0%	1.3%	1.3%	-2.2%	-9.9%	-7.7%
Home aide	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%	0.0%	5.7%	5.7%
Other	2.7%	4.6%	1.9%	5.9%	3.8%	-2.1%	3.2%	-0.8%	-4.0%
Needed but none provided	2.5%	1.2%	-1.2%	0.0%	16.5%	16.5% **	-2.5%	15.3% *	17.7% *
If voted using mail ballot, needed assistance in voting									
With completing or returning ballot	na	na	na	1.1%	10.5%	9.3% **	na	na	na
With completing ballot	0.4%	11.3%	10.9% **	0.6%	5.1%	4.4% **	0.2%	-6.2% **	-6.4% **
With returning ballot	na	na	na	0.5%	9.5%	8.9% **	na	na	na
If needed, who assisted									
Family member who lives with voter	na	na	na	66.6%	55.8%	-10.8%	na	na	na
Family member who does not live with voter	na	na	na	0.0%	18.7%	18.7% **	na	na	na
Other person who lives with voter	na	na	na	0.0%	4.1%	4.1% *	na	na	na
Friend or neighbor	na	na	na	0.0%	8.0%	8.0% *	na	na	na
Home aide	na	na	na	0.0%	6.6%	6.6% *	na	na	na
Other	na	na	na	33.4%	6.0%	-27.4%	na	na	na
Sample size									
In-person voters	708	1,034		331	431				
Voters using mail ballots	154	462		319	797				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 17: Need for Assistance in Voting by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with vision impairments were the most likely to need assistance in voting. About one-sixth of them needed assistance voting in person, and one-fourth in voting with a mail ballot.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
If voted in-person, needed assistance in voting	3.7%	6.2%	4.8%	15.6% *	6.8%	5.8%	5.3%	8.5%
If needed, who assisted								
Election official	89.7%	53.8% **	45.6%	36.4% **	36.2% **	63.0%	50.1% **	59.8% *
Family member	0.0%	18.5% **	37.5%	33.9% *	21.2%	19.9%	6.2%	38.3% **
Friend	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	4.7%	3.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.8%
Home aide	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	20.5%	11.7%	9.9%	0.0%
Other	5.9%	3.8%	6.5%	0.0%	15.8%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%
Needed but none provided	0.0%	16.5% **	10.4%	25.0%	3.4%	5.3%	26.8% *	0.0%
If voted using mail ballot, needed assistance in voting	1.1%	10.5% **	6.5% *	25.3% **	13.1% **	14.4% **	5.0% **	21.7% **
Needed assistance with completing ballot	0.6%	5.1% **	2.7%	22.9% **	6.1% **	6.9% **	3.1% *	9.2% **
Needed assistance with returning ballot	0.5%	9.5% **	5.8% *	22.4% **	11.5% **	13.5% **	4.2% **	20.3% **
If needed, who assisted								
Family member who lives with voter	66.6%	55.8%	61.2%	49.9%	35.9%	58.1%	47.9%	59.5%
Family member who does not live with voter	0.0%	18.7% **	15.1%	16.0%	12.9%	17.2% **	25.8% *	15.4% **
Other person living with voter	0.0%	4.1% *	0.0%	2.6%	9.5%	2.8%	5.0%	3.6%
Friend or neighbor	0.0%	8.0% *	9.6%	19.8% *	17.0%	6.9%	10.4%	6.8% *
Home aide	0.0%	6.6% *	0.0%	9.5%	7.6%	9.3% *	0.0%	9.7% *
Other	33.4%	6.0%	14.0%	2.2%	17.0%	4.3%	10.9%	3.6%
Sample size								
In-person voters	331	431	76	33	75	190	312	117
Voters using mail ballots	319	797	119	75	155	398	526	267

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 18: Voting Independently Without Difficulty, 2020

Key results: Just under five-sixths of voters with disabilities reported voting independently and without any type of difficulty in 2020, compared to over nine-tenths of voters without disabilities. This included about four-fifths of in-person voters with disabilities and six-sevenths of mail voters with disabilities. The lowest rate of voting independently without difficulty was among people with vision impairments.

	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
Voted without difficulty or need for assistance								
Among all voters	91.9%	82.6% **	84.6% *	68.4% **	76.2% **	80.7% **	86.8% **	73.5% **
Among in person voters	88.1%	78.7% **	79.1%	68.6% *	67.1% **	79.1% *	81.5% *	71.5% **
Among mail voters	96.8%	86.0% **	90.0% *	65.0% **	83.5% **	81.5% **	92.0% *	73.6% **
Sample sizes								
All voters	690	1,503	244	149	300	701	1,034	463
In person voters	371	697	124	72	139	298	506	189
Mail voters	319	797	119	75	155	398	526	267

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level

Note: These figures include those who did not experience any difficulty in voting (Tables 6-11) or had any need for assistance in voting (Tables 16-17).



Table 19: Treatment by Election Officials in 2012 and 2020

Key results: Most voters with and without disabilities reported that election officials were very respectful toward them in both 2012 and 2020, but the average score on this measure declined among both groups over this period.

	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
How respectful were election officials									
Average score on 1-5 scale	4.71	4.79	0.08	4.31	4.53	0.22	-0.40 **	-0.26 **	0.14
1. Very disrespectful	1.9%	1.1%	-0.8%	8.7%	5.7%	-2.9%	6.8% **	4.6% **	-2.2%
2. Somewhat disrespectful	1.2%	0.6%	-0.6%	2.0%	0.2%	-1.8%	0.7%	-0.4%	-1.2%
3. Neither respectful nor disrespectful	5.3%	3.2%	-2.1%	9.6%	8.6%	-1.0%	4.3%	5.3% *	1.1%
4. Somewhat respectful	6.8%	8.2%	1.4%	9.1%	6.2%	-2.9%	2.3%	-2.0%	-4.3%
5. Very respectful	84.7%	86.8%	2.1%	70.6%	79.3%	8.7%	-14.0% **	-7.5%	6.5%
Sample size	707	1,034		181	329				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence

Note: For proper comparison, the 2020 figures are limited to the half of the sample which had answer options presented in the same order as in 2012. The remaining half of the 2020 sample (included in Table 20) had answer options presented in reverse order ("very respectful" to "very disrespectful"), to control for any order effects (not done in 2012).



Table 20: Treatment by Election Officials by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: Voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities in 2020 to report that election officials were “very respectful” toward them, with the highest reports on this measure among people with mobility impairments.

"In your opinion, how respectful were the election officials to you?" (note: answer options were rotated to avoid order effects)	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
How respectful were election officials								
Average score on 1-5 scale	4.52	4.67	4.63	4.56	4.68	4.71 *	4.67	4.67
1. Very disrespectful	4.4%	3.0%	4.1%	6.1%	1.4% *	3.7%	2.7%	3.4%
2. Somewhat disrespectful	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	0.0%
3. Neither respectful nor disrespectful	9.2%	6.8%	5.8%	5.6%	7.8%	4.6%	7.1%	6.1%
4. Somewhat respectful	8.9%	6.0%	9.2%	8.6%	8.2%	4.2% *	5.7%	6.9%
5. Very respectful	76.6%	83.7% *	80.9%	79.7%	81.8%	87.4% **	83.8% *	83.6%
Sample size	371	693	122	72	136	297	502	189

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 21: Received Accessible Voting Information Before Election in 2020

Key results: Voters with and without disabilities were equally likely to report that they received voting information before the election that was accessible and met their needs, except people with cognitive impairments were less likely to report they received any voting information.

"Before you cast your vote in the 2020 election, did you get information about your voting options that was accessible and met your needs?"	No disability (1)	Any disability (2)	Hearing impairment (3)	Vision impairment (4)	Cognitive impairment (5)	Mobility impairment (6)	No need for help in daily activities (7)	Need help in daily activities (8)
All voters								
Yes	83.0%	82.4%	79.4%	83.1%	76.9% *	83.2%	81.8%	83.5%
No, information was not accessible	1.6%	0.6% *	0.6%	1.1%	0.4%	0.4% *	0.5% *	1.0%
No, information did not meet my needs	3.7%	3.0%	5.3%	3.8%	2.1%	2.9%	3.4%	2.2%
No, did not get information on voting options	11.8%	11.9%	14.0%	10.8%	19.7% **	11.5%	12.6%	10.5%
Sample size	687	1,489	236	143	293	693	1,022	461

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 22: Confidence That Vote was Accurately Counted in 2020

Key results: Voters with and without disabilities were equally confident that their vote was accurately counted in 2020, except people with vision and mobility impairments who voted in person were more confident compared to voters without disabilities.

"How confident are you that your vote was accurately counted?" (note: options were rotated to avoid order effects)	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
All voters								
Average score on 1-4 scale	3.40	3.49	3.44	3.46	3.45	3.54 *	3.49	3.48
1. Not at all confident	5.8%	6.1%	7.9%	10.0%	5.3%	5.1%	6.1%	6.0%
2. Not very confident	6.7%	6.8%	8.1%	2.7% *	6.6%	6.8%	7.1%	6.3%
3. Somewhat confident	29.1%	19.5% **	16.2% **	18.8% *	26.1%	17.2% **	18.8% **	21.1% *
4. Highly confident	58.5%	67.6% **	67.9% *	68.5%	62.1%	70.8% **	68.0% **	66.5% *
In-person voters								
Average score on 1-4 scale	3.36	3.45	3.38	3.59 *	3.41	3.56 **	3.45	3.46
1. Not at all confident	5.8%	6.2%	7.6%	4.1%	6.7%	4.4%	6.6%	5.5%
2. Not very confident	8.0%	7.7%	9.2%	2.2% **	7.1%	7.0%	8.0%	7.0%
3. Somewhat confident	30.6%	20.5% **	20.4%	23.9%	24.7%	16.4% **	19.2% **	23.7%
4. Highly confident	55.6%	65.6% *	62.8%	69.8%	61.5%	72.1% **	66.3% *	63.8%
Mail voters								
Average score on 1-4 scale	3.45	3.53	3.50	3.42	3.47	3.54	3.53	3.52
1. Not at all confident	5.9%	5.6%	8.2%	12.4%	4.1%	5.0%	5.8%	5.4%
2. Not very confident	5.0%	5.7%	6.9%	3.3%	6.4%	6.7%	5.6%	6.0%
3. Somewhat confident	27.0%	18.8% *	11.7% **	14.1% *	27.9%	17.9% *	18.6% *	19.3%
4. Highly confident	62.1%	69.8%	73.2%	70.2%	61.6%	70.4%	70.0%	69.2%
Sample size								
All voters	689	1,495	241	147	297	696	1,029	460
In-person voters	371	693	122	72	138	296	504	187
Mail voters	318	794	119	74	154	396	523	267

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 23: Voter Comparisons of 2020 Voting Experience to Pre-Pandemic Experience

Key results: Voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to say voting in 2020 was easier than the last time they voted before the pandemic. Among both groups, reports of easier voting were most common among those who voted by mail this year but in person before the pandemic.

"How easy or difficult was your experience in voting this year compared to the last time you voted before the COVID pandemic?" (note: answer options were rotated to avoid order effects)	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
All voters								
Average difficulty on 1-5 scale	2.77	2.66 **	2.68	2.49 **	2.59 **	2.63 **	2.65 **	2.66 *
1. Much easier	14.1%	17.3%	15.7%	25.8% **	20.1% *	18.9% *	16.6%	19.1% *
2. Somewhat easier	9.5%	10.4%	11.3%	8.4%	12.6%	9.6%	11.5%	7.9%
3. About the same	64.3%	62.6%	64.5%	60.0%	57.1% *	62.2%	62.6%	62.4%
4. Somewhat more difficult	9.0%	8.7%	6.4%	3.1% *	8.5%	8.1%	8.5%	9.0%
5. Much more difficult	3.1%	1.0% **	2.0%	2.7%	1.7%	1.2% *	0.8% **	1.6%
Voted by mail this time, in-person last time								
Average difficulty on 1-5 scale	2.31	2.32	2.36	2.35	2.24	2.26	2.28	2.38
1. Much easier	35.6%	32.3%	27.9%	38.9%	33.4%	37.2%	31.6%	33.8%
2. Somewhat easier	17.6%	17.4%	18.0%	5.3% *	24.8%	14.9%	20.3%	11.9%
3. About the same	32.0%	38.4%	47.3%	43.0%	30.5%	35.1%	37.8%	39.0%
4. Somewhat more difficult	10.0%	10.0%	3.9%	7.6%	7.5%	10.3%	8.5%	13.0%
5. Much more difficult	4.9%	1.9%	2.9%	5.1%	3.9%	2.5%	1.7%	2.4%

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	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Voted in-person both times								
Average difficulty on 1-5 scale	2.97	2.76 **	2.74	2.42 **	2.66 **	2.73 **	2.79 *	2.67 **
1. Much easier	6.0%	13.9% **	14.0%	26.2% *	18.9% **	14.5% **	12.9% **	16.6% **
2. Somewhat easier	6.7%	8.7%	9.8%	8.4%	8.5%	9.7%	8.3%	9.7%
3. About the same	74.3%	65.8% *	66.3%	62.8%	61.1% *	65.2%	66.1% *	64.9%
4. Somewhat more difficult	10.0%	10.8%	7.7%	2.3%	10.5%	10.0%	11.9%	7.8%
5. Much more difficult	2.9%	0.8%	2.2%	0.3% **	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%
Voted by mail both times								
Average difficulty on 1-5 scale	2.91	2.75	2.74	2.70	2.70	2.77	2.70 *	2.87
1. Much easier	4.6%	10.8%	12.0%	14.9%	12.8%	11.9%	11.2%	10.1%
2. Somewhat easier	4.6%	7.6%	9.4%	12.3%	10.7%	5.2%	10.4%	1.7%
3. About the same	87.4%	77.7%	72.2%	67.0%	71.9%	78.2%	76.1% *	80.9%
4. Somewhat more difficult	2.3%	3.3%	5.2%	0.0%	3.3%	3.7%	2.3%	5.5%
5. Much more difficult	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%	5.8%	1.2%	1.0%	0.0%	1.8%
Sample size								
All voters	651	1,453	236	143	284	683	1,001	446
By mail this time, in-person last time	182	377	42	32	74	174	251	123
In-person both times	337	653	120	69	125	287	478	174
By mail both times	118	392	71	40	74	212	255	136

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level

The sample of those who voted by mail pre-pandemic but in person in 2020 was too small for meaningful analysis.



Table 24: Preference for How to Vote in Next Election

Key results: About half of people with disabilities, and three-fifths of people without disabilities, would prefer voting in a polling place in the next election. About one-third of people with disabilities would prefer voting by mail, while a combined one-sixth would prefer voting by other methods.

"If you wanted to vote in the next election, how would you <i>prefer</i> to cast your vote?" (note: options were presented to respondents in random order to avoid any order effects)	No Disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
All respondents								
In person inside the polling place	60.8%	48.6% **	51.7% **	49.0% **	46.3% **	46.8% **	51.4% **	42.8% **
Receive and send ballot by mail or dropbox	18.9%	31.9% **	34.5% **	37.9% **	28.7% **	36.1% **	30.8% **	34.2% **
Vote fully online, using personal computer or smartphone	13.6%	11.5%	7.7% **	3.9% **	13.5%	8.8% **	10.5% *	13.3%
Fill out ballot online, print it and mail	4.1%	5.2%	5.5%	5.1%	7.1% *	4.9%	5.3%	4.9%
Voting by drive through or curbside	2.6%	2.8%	0.6% *	4.1%	4.3%	3.5%	1.9%	4.9% *
Voters in 2020								
In person inside the polling place	62.5%	51.5% **	54.7%	52.2%	49.2% **	50.1% **	53.4% **	47.2% **
Receive and send ballot by mail or dropbox	20.7%	34.2% **	35.4% **	39.7% **	31.1% **	37.6% **	32.6% **	37.9% **
Vote fully online, using personal computer or smartphone	12.2%	7.8% *	5.1% **	2.1% **	7.4%	6.3% **	7.9% *	7.4% *
Fill out ballot online, print it and mail	3.0%	4.1%	4.2%	1.3%	7.9% *	3.4%	4.2%	3.8%
Voting by drive through or curbside	1.6%	2.4%	0.6%	4.7%	4.4%	2.6%	1.8%	3.7%
Non-voters in 2020								
In person inside the polling place	52.1%	36.7% *	31.4%	39.7%	38.7%	31.8% *	42.3%	27.2% **
Receive and send ballot by mail or dropbox	9.9%	22.0% **	28.8%	32.8% *	22.2% *	29.1% **	22.9% *	20.7%
Vote fully online, using personal computer or smartphone	20.4%	27.1%	24.8%	9.0%	29.7%	19.8%	22.5%	34.4%
Fill out ballot online, print it and mail	10.1%	9.6%	14.5%	16.2%	5.2%	11.6%	10.2%	8.7%
Voting by drive through or curbside	7.5%	4.6%	0.5% *	2.3%	4.2%	7.6%	2.1%	9.0%
Sample size								
All respondents	782	1,760	271	186	395	809	1,196	557
Voters in 2020	685	1,491	239	148	298	693	1,027	458
Non-voters in 2020	97	269	32	38	97	116	169	99

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 25: Non-voting Political Participation in 2012 and 2020

Key results: People with and without disabilities were equally likely to engage in non-voting political activities in 2020, in contrast to 2012 when people with disabilities were less likely to do so. Just under half of each group engaged in such activities in 2020.

	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Any of activities 1 to 8 below	53.2%	43.4%	-9.8% **	43.4%	44.9%	1.4%	-9.8% **	1.4%	11.2% *
Average number of activities 1 to 8 below	1.27	1.02	-0.25 **	1.02	1.07	0.05	-0.24 *	0.06	0.30 *
Any of activities 1 to 8 on disability issues	na	13.4%	na	na	6.2%	na	na	-7.2%	na
1. Contributed money to political party or candidate	19.9%	14.7%	-5.2% *	21.0%	22.3%	1.2%	1.1%	7.6% **	6.4%
2. Written or spoken to elected representative or public official	35.5%	28.7%	-6.8% *	25.6%	28.7%	3.1%	-9.9% **	0.1%	9.9% *
3. Attended a political meeting	18.7%	12.7%	-6.0% *	10.4%	9.5%	-0.9%	-8.3% **	-3.2%	5.0%
4. Written a letter to a newspaper	6.8%	4.9%	-1.9%	2.9%	3.8%	0.8%	-3.9% **	-1.1%	2.8%
5. Contributed money to political group	19.1%	15.1%	-4.0% *	15.7%	18.1%	2.3%	-3.3%	3.0%	6.3%
6. Worked for political candidate	5.0%	4.4%	-0.5%	3.9%	2.9%	-1.0%	-1.1%	-1.6%	-0.4%
7. Took part in protest on national or local issue	6.8%	5.1%	-1.7%	11.7%	8.7%	-2.9%	4.9% *	3.7%	-1.2%
8. Otherwise worked to change govt. laws/policies	15.2%	15.1%	-0.2%	11.2%	13.3%	2.1%	-4.0%	-1.7%	2.3%
Worked with others on community problem	22.4%	14.8%	-7.6% **	14.4%	14.0%	-0.4%	-8.0% **	-0.8%	7.2% *
Worked to change private organization's policies on disability	na	7.3%	na	na	4.3%	na	na	-3.0%	na
Sample size	1,022	1,999		465	972				

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 26: Non-voting Political Participation by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with hearing impairments were more likely than those without disabilities to engage in non-voting political activities in 2020, while people with cognitive impairments were the least likely to engage in these activities.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Any of activities 1 to 8 below	43.4%	44.9%	57.7% *	39.8%	28.1% **	38.5%	48.1%	38.0%
Average number of activities 1 to 8 below	1.02	1.07	1.22	0.81	0.80	0.94	1.20	0.80
Any of activities 1 to 8 on disability issues	na	6.2%	4.6%	5.2%	8.4%	7.6%	5.6%	7.6%
1. Contributed money to political party or candidate	21.0%	22.3%	26.6%	15.9%	10.3% **	18.5%	25.0%	16.5%
2. Written or spoken to elected representative or public official	25.6%	28.7%	39.7% *	20.3%	16.2% *	26.9%	31.6%	22.6%
3. Attended a political meeting	10.4%	9.5%	6.2%	4.9% *	8.4%	8.7%	10.6%	7.1%
4. Written a letter to a newspaper	2.9%	3.8%	8.9%	1.9%	1.4%	3.8%	4.4%	2.4%
5. Contributed money to political group	15.7%	18.1%	17.8%	9.4%	13.8%	14.9%	20.8%	12.3%
6. Worked for political candidate	3.9%	2.9%	4.2%	2.3%	2.7%	4.2%	3.1%	2.5%
7. Took part in protest on national or local issue	11.7%	8.7%	8.0%	9.8%	12.3%	5.1% **	10.2%	5.7% *
8. Otherwise worked to change govt. laws/policies	11.2%	13.3%	10.0%	14.6%	13.2%	12.1%	14.3%	11.3%
Worked with others on community problem	14.4%	14.0%	10.6%	14.7%	16.1%	12.1%	14.5%	13.1%
Worked to change private organization's policies on disability	na	4.3%	4.3%	6.9%	8.2%	4.7%	3.6%	5.8%
Sample size	465	972	100	68	181	403	656	315

* Gap or change is significantly different from zero at 95% level of confidence ** 99% level of confidence



Table 27: Political Interest and Perceptions of Political Efficacy in 2012 and 2020

Key results: People with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities in 2020 to say they follow politics. They have lower perceived ability to participate in politics, but this disability gap narrowed since 2012. They are also less likely to see the political system as responsive. Perceptions of the influence and respect of people with disabilities in politics are similar between people with and without disabilities in 2020.

	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Follow politics:									
Mean of 1-4 scale	3.33	3.06	-0.26 **	3.13	3.23	0.10	-0.20 **	0.17 *	0.37 **
1. Hardly at all	6.1%	16.9%	10.8% **	7.2%	9.4%	2.2%	1.1%	-7.5% **	-8.5% **
2. Only now and then	11.6%	9.6%	-2.0%	15.3%	11.0%	-4.3% *	3.7%	1.4%	-2.3%
3. Some of the time	25.5%	23.8%	-1.8%	35.1%	26.7%	-8.4% **	9.5% **	2.9%	-6.6%
4. Most of the time	56.7%	49.8%	-7.0% *	42.4%	52.9%	10.5% **	-14.3% **	3.1%	17.5% **
Perceived Efficacy									
Internal efficacy-- Personal ability to participate (mean of 2-10 scale)	7.07	6.20	-0.87 **	7.07	6.70	-0.37 **	0.00	0.49 **	0.50 **
External efficacy-- responsiveness of political system (mean of 2-10 scale)	5.90	5.41	-0.49 **	5.62	5.38	-0.25 *	-0.28 *	-0.03	0.24
Influence of people with disabilities in politics (mean of 1-5 scale)	3.63	3.54	-0.09	3.44	3.36	-0.09	-0.19 *	-0.18 *	0.01
Govt. officials treat people with disabilities with same respect as others (mean of 1-5 scale)	3.36	3.14	-0.22 *	3.21	3.15	-0.06	-0.15	0.01	0.16
Sample size	1,020	1,995		787	1,776				

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 28: Political Interest and Perceptions of Political Efficacy by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with hearing and mobility impairments were the most likely to say they follow politics in 2020. The perceived ability to participate is lower among all disability groups relative to people without disabilities. Perceptions of the responsiveness of the political system, and the influence and respect of people with disabilities in politics, are especially low among people with cognitive impairments.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Follow politics:								
Mean of 1-4 scale	3.13	3.23	3.39 **	3.06	2.96	3.32 **	3.23	3.24
1. Hardly at all	7.2%	9.4%	6.8%	13.7%	12.6% *	8.9%	9.7%	8.9%
2. Only now and then	15.3%	11.0% *	7.9% **	14.6%	18.6%	8.7% **	10.8% *	11.5%
2. Some of the time	35.1%	26.7% **	24.7% **	24.3% *	29.0%	24.2% **	26.6% **	26.5%
4. Most of the time	42.4%	52.9% **	60.6% **	47.4% *	39.8%	58.2% **	52.9% **	53.1% **
Perceived Efficacy								
Internal efficacy--Personal ability to participate (mean of 2-10 scale)	7.07	6.70 **	6.71 *	6.56 *	5.98 **	6.57 **	6.78 *	6.51 **
External efficacy--responsiveness of political system (mean of 2-10 scale)	5.62	5.38 *	5.44	5.79	5.12 **	5.46	5.36 *	5.40
Influence of people with disabilities in politics (mean of 1-5 scale)	3.44	3.36	3.22	3.21	3.17 *	3.43	3.36	3.37
Govt. officials treat people with disabilities with same respect as others (mean of 1-5 scale)	3.21	3.15	3.22	3.09	2.94 **	3.19	3.13	3.18
Sample size	787	1,776	275	188	397	821	1,206	563

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 29: Recruitment for Voting in 2012 and 2020

Key results: About two-fifths of people both with and without disabilities were contacted about voting during the 2020 campaign, which was close to the rate of contact in 2012 for both groups.

	2012, No disability	2012, Disability	2012 Disability Gap	2020, No disability	2020, Disability	2020 Disability Gap	Change from 2012 to 2020, No disability	Change from 2012 to 2020, Disability	Change from 2012 to 2020 in disability gap
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Anyone talk to you about registering or voting during campaign this Fall	39.9%	40.9%	1.0%	42.6%	38.1%	-4.5%	2.7%	-2.7%	-5.5%
Talked to by:									
Friends	13.3%	14.2%	0.8%	21.4%	18.1%	-3.3%	8.1% **	3.9%	-4.2%
Family members	11.8%	12.0%	0.2%	20.7%	16.1%	-4.6% *	8.9% **	4.0%	-4.9%
Co-workers	7.7%	6.0%	-1.7%	14.5%	5.8%	-8.7% **	6.8% **	-0.2%	-7.0% **
Representatives from political parties	23.5%	23.6%	0.1%	21.7%	20.1%	-1.6%	-1.8%	-3.4%	-1.7%
Representatives from other organizations	12.0%	10.6%	-1.3%	14.8%	13.5%	-1.4%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%
Someone else	3.1%	1.9%	-1.2%	2.6%	3.6%	1.0%	-0.5%	1.7%	2.1%
Sample size	1015	1,965		787	1,773				

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 30: Recruitment for Voting by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: The likelihood of being contacted about voting in 2020 was lowest among people with hearing and mobility impairments. Being contacted by co-workers was especially low among all disability groups due to their low employment rate.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Anyone talk to you about registering or voting during campaign this Fall	42.6%	38.1%	29.2% **	37.2%	41.7%	32.7% **	38.4%	37.7%
Talked to by:								
Friends	21.4%	18.1%	13.8% *	14.6%	24.7%	15.1% **	17.8%	18.7%
Family members	20.7%	16.1% *	12.5% **	19.3%	21.7%	13.7% **	15.2% *	18.1%
Co-workers	14.5%	5.8% **	4.1% **	4.7% **	6.4% **	4.3% **	6.7% **	4.0% **
Representatives from political parties	21.7%	20.1%	12.1% **	20.8%	19.1%	17.6%	20.7%	18.8%
Representatives from other organizations	14.8%	13.5%	11.5%	15.2%	14.6%	9.9% **	13.6%	13.4%
Someone else	2.6%	3.6%	2.9%	1.1%	4.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%
Sample size	787	1,773	273	188	397	816	1,204	562

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 31: Transportation by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with disabilities are less likely than people without disabilities to be able to drive or to have their own or a family vehicle for basic transportation. They are similar to people without disabilities in likelihood of transportation problems, except that people with vision and cognitive impairments, and those needing help in daily activities, are more likely to encounter transportation problems.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Can drive own or family vehicle	90.0%	69.6% **	80.7% **	47.3% **	64.8% **	62.3% **	79.4% **	48.4% **
Most often use for basic transportation:								
Own or family vehicle	93.3%	82.7% **	90.2%	70.1% **	77.1% **	80.1% **	85.7% **	76.2% **
Someone else's vehicle	1.8%	6.4% **	3.9%	11.2% **	7.6% **	7.5% **	5.2% **	9.2% **
Taxi or rideshare	0.5%	3.2% **	2.1%	3.4% *	5.2% **	3.4% **	2.3% **	5.0% **
Para-transit	0.2%	1.3% **	1.3%	3.1%	1.4% **	2.2% **	0.9%	2.1% **
Other public transportation	3.0%	4.9%	1.9%	9.8% *	6.8% *	5.6%	5.0%	4.7%
Other	1.2%	1.5%	0.5%	2.4%	1.9%	1.3%	0.9%	2.8%
Problems in transportation								
Never or rarely	67.2%	63.1%	64.4%	46.6% **	59.0% *	66.5%	66.1%	57.0% **
Occasionally	24.2%	27.0%	25.7%	38.4% **	26.9%	24.4%	24.9%	31.4% *
Often	5.7%	4.3%	3.5%	6.9%	5.6%	3.3%	3.9%	5.0%
Very often	1.7%	2.4%	2.6%	4.0%	3.8%	2.3%	2.0%	3.4%
Always	1.3%	3.1% *	3.8%	4.1%	4.7% *	3.5% *	3.0%	3.2%
Sample size	787	1,768	269	188	397	817	1,202	559

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level



Table 32: Other Facilitators of Political Participation by Disability Type in 2020

Key results: People with disabilities are less likely than those without disabilities to be employed or have college degrees, and they have lower average incomes, but they are equally likely to meet regularly with any groups, and more likely to attend religious services every week.

	No disability	Any disability	Hearing impairment	Vision impairment	Cognitive impairment	Mobility impairment	No need for help in daily activities	Need help in daily activities
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Employed	60.1%	23.5% **	21.3% **	20.0% **	26.8% **	13.1% **	27.8% **	14.3% **
If employed: work full-time	84.4%	63.8% **	69.0% *	47.7% **	58.3% **	58.8% **	66.0% **	52.3% **
If employed: union member	14.3%	13.4%	18.7%	12.6%	13.7%	11.8%	15.1%	5.9% **
Resources								
Household income (average)	\$74,186	\$51,381 **	\$62,754 *	\$54,151 **	\$45,669 **	\$43,996	\$55,844 **	\$41,869 **
Bachelor's or graduate degree	33.1%	22.2% **	22.0% **	16.3% **	14.4% **	18.3% **	24.2% **	12.3% **
Social connections								
Groups and organizations								
Regularly meet in any groups/orgs.	27.3%	27.8%	31.0%	31.3%	27.6%	25.2%	27.6%	28.1%
Regularly meet in disability group/org.	na	8.9%	10.5%	14.9%	11.6%	8.9%	7.8%	11.2%
Attend religious services								
Every week	12.2%	18.0% **	21.9% **	27.7% **	14.0%	20.0% **	18.0% **	18.2% *
Almost every week	10.6%	7.2% *	5.2% **	4.8% **	5.9% *	8.1%	6.0% **	9.8%
Once or twice a month	8.5%	7.0%	7.0%	9.0%	8.3%	5.8%	7.4%	6.3%
A few times a year	5.3%	5.5%	7.1%	4.3%	4.5%	5.1%	6.2%	4.2%
Never	63.4%	62.3%	58.8%	54.2%	67.2%	61.0%	62.5%	61.6%
Sample size	787	1,768	269	188	397	817	1,202	559

* Difference from non-disability sample is significant at 95% level ** 99% level