



VOTING

IN

**ASSISTED LIVING
FACILITIES**

Seniors and people with disabilities often reside in assisted living communities, independent living communities, and home care. These voters still have the right to cast a ballot and voting is vitally important to them.

Pierce County Elections offers this election guidance to employees and family members who provide for disabled voters.

YOU CAN HELP!



Keep voter registration records current. When a client moves into your home or facility, take the time to update their address.

- www.VoteWA.Gov is Washington State's online registration portal. It's an easy way to update your client's mailing address. Or, complete a voter registration form.
- Consider adding voter registration forms and voter cancellation forms in your in-take packets.



Ensure that ballots and voter pamphlets are delivered and routed to residents. If ballots don't arrive by two weeks prior to the election, call our office (253) 798-8683 (VOTE). We can track the mail, or we can issue a replacement ballot.



Remind residents of the election date and deadlines.



Help. State law allows voters to receive assistance in voting. A voter may designate an election worker, assisted living staff member, or a volunteer.

www.VoteWa.Gov



HERE'S HOW TO OFFER PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:

- Be clear about what assistance is requested (marking, reading, seeing, folding or handling paper, being driven to a Voting Center).
- Limit your assistance to what is requested.
- Make attempts to have two people in assistance, rather than one.
- Provide assistance in a private area, to protect confidentiality.
- The voter should not need to discuss their vote or share their reasoning.
- If the voter doesn't indicate how to mark the ballot, it shouldn't be marked.

DON'T

- ✗ Withhold a ballot, even if you strongly believe that the resident is not competent.
- ✗ Give the ballot to a child or relative. The ballot is for the voter, and the voter only.
- ✗ Vote on behalf of a resident.
- ✗ Help with decision-making, even if requested.



WHEN A VOTER ASKS FOR YOUR OPINION:

- ✓ "That's for you to decide, Sam"
- ✓ "It's important for me to keep my opinions to myself."
- ✓ "You can skip that question, if you want. They will still count your other votes."



SIGNATURES

We check the signature on every ballot envelope. Signatures change over time. If the signature on an envelope doesn't match the signature on file, we can't count the ballot. If that happens, Pierce County Elections will mail a letter to the voter and provide options for "curing" the signature.

Encourage seniors to update their signatures on file:

- Signature updates can occur at anytime by filling out a new voter registration form.
- Sign it using an everyday signature, just like a driver's license.

If the voter can't sign the envelope, they may simply make a mark, such as an "X." In that case, two individuals must also sign as witnesses. These witnesses can be anyone, including facility staff.

The signature of a Power of Attorney is not allowed. Only the voter can vote and sign their ballot.



INCAPACITATION

Voters who are starting to experience mental incapacitation may want to consider cancelling their voter registration voluntarily.

- The voter needs to cancel registration in writing
- The voter needs to sign.

INVOLUNTARY CANCELLATION



Only a court can declare an incapacitated person incompetent for voting - [RCW 29A.08-515](#)

HANDLING

MISDIRECTED BALLOTS

Because residents come and go, your facility will receive ballots after a resident departs. Please put these back in the mail stream, marked in one of three ways:

- "Forwarding address: 678 Alder Drive, Lacey WA (or whatever address is appropriate)"
- "No forwarding address"
- "Deceased"

You may receive additional ballots until we're able to verify the voter's status or location. Just keep returning the ballots to us.



PIERCE COUNTY ELECTIONS ★ CAN HELP ★

We can print large format ballots or Voter Pamphlet pages at 200 or 300 percent. Just call us at (253) 798-8683 (VOTE).

If your facility can provide transportation to Pierce County Elections, we have special equipment onsite for Deaf, hard of hearing, and blind voters.

Voters can bring their ballots with them or vote on a touch-screen machine. The touchscreen machines have ADA capabilities that can accommodate blind voters and voters who are unable to hold pencils or reach touchscreens.





TRANSLATION SERVICES

If your client(s) speaks English as a second language, we can help. We offer a toll-free number for the following languages.

Spanish: 1-844-242-7595

Korean: 1-844-242-7597

Vietnamese: 1-855-517-9709

Clients can call these numbers to discuss and request:

- Voter Registration
- Ballot
- Voter's Pamphlet

Upon request, we will mail voters their election materials in their primary language. We offer Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese.





Pierce County Elections
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