

Working with Voters with Disabilities

What to Do:

1. Speak directly to the person
2. Show respect for the individual
3. Feel free to ask the person to repeat their comment if you did not understand them
4. Ask the person before you assist them
5. Keep accessible paths of travel clear for easy access
6. Identify yourself to a person who is blind
7. Offer your arm to a person is blind and let them hold it as you guide them to their destination
8. Let a person who is deaf read your lips as you talk
9. Use a sign language interpreter with complex communication with a person who is deaf
10. Treat the person as a person rather than a disability
11. Always treat the person as an adult

What to Not Do:

1. Do not pretend to understand if you do not
2. Don't push or touch a person or their wheelchair without permission
3. Don't reach across a person in a wheelchair to shake someone's hand
4. Do not speak to the interpreter or aide instead of the person with a disability
5. Don't use baby talk or talk down to the person
6. Don't make assumptions about the abilities of an individual...ask them
7. Don't use outdated terms like handicapped, retarded, or crippled
8. Don't move a wheelchair without permission and letting the person know before you begin to move them
9. Don't ask a person in a wheelchair to hold things for you
10. Do not shout at the person