

As a Deaf individual the biggest challenge for us voting is the lack of communication access and willingness of the poll workers to accommodate our needs. Currently this is further complicated by the wearing of masks. We have yet to encounter a polling station, whether early voting at DMV or the regular one that is prepared with written instructions or a means of providing communications to the Deaf or hard of hearing. As a result we spend more time in these locations compared to others without a hearing loss. As an example, Virginia requires one to "speak" their address so it can be confirmed by the poll worker. Never mind that it took 5-7 minutes to figure out what they were asking of us in the first place. A simple low tech solution is to have the questions already printed where we can read and respond to them.