

**To: Shannel Evans, Registrars of Voters – City of New Haven
Marlene Napolitano, Registrars of Voters – City of New Haven**

**From: Gretchen Knauff, Acting Director
Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities**

Date: June 15, 2021

Re: New Haven Polling Place Accessibility Surveys

Thank you for taking the time to visit the polling places in New Haven. On various dates in April and May 2021, we spent time assessing the accessibility of each polling place for the path of travel from the parking lot (including the accessible spaces) to the actual polling place in each of the sites. Because the sites were not set up for an Election, we did not assess the set-up of the room where the voters cast their ballots, the location of the accessible marking device (IVS) or the knowledge of the poll workers regarding requirements for voters with disabilities.

The accessibility of polling places is required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984. The surveys were conducted to identify physical accessibility issues that create barriers to voting for people with disabilities. This memo, therefore, does not provide a full assessment of each polling place, but lists issues at each polling place that need resolution to meet the required accessibility for voters with disabilities.

Most of the New Haven polling places are in school settings, generally the gym, auditorium, or cafeteria. Access from the exterior door leads directly into the polling location and all voters, including voters with disabilities use the same entrance. This eliminates interior path of travel issues such as long or obstructed hallways, doors, and elevators. Most issues identified included lack of accessible parking, narrow door widths, condition of materials on the path of travel, and ramps.

Handicapped, Reserved, Accessible – All of these terms are used to describe parking for people with disabilities. “Handicapped Parking” is the commonly known and used term that derives from the use of the language “handicapped parking” on signs designating accessible parking for people with disabilities. In relevant state and federal statutes, the terminology used is generally “accessible” parking. New signage requirements for accessible parking spaces in Connecticut, change the language to “reserved parking” as of January 1, 2017. Such confusion. For the purposes of this document, the term “accessible” will be used to mean accessible, handicapped or reserved unless the other terms are specifically required.

**Please see the end of this document for guidance
on proper signage and space sizes.**

Considerations on Election Day - On Election Day, there are additional considerations in setting up the actual polling area. I have attached a Voting Area Recommended Practices Sheet which provides some reminders that make the experience for voters with disabilities more accessible and welcoming. There are also barriers such as tables and large plants that may not be identified ahead of the Election due to their ability to be easily moved. Certain placement of these types of items can decrease path of travel, creating a barrier for voters with disabilities. Rugs and mats should be checked to ensure they will lay flat, are stable, and free of tripping hazards such as curled edges. Signage may be needed to assist voters with identifying the accessible route to the polling entrance. Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Connecticut General Statute §46a-44 are welcome at polling places.

On Election Day, the IVS Ballot Marking Device must be set up and ready at all polling places and the Election Day Registration location. It must be available for the entire time the polls are open, usually 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Since the Ballot Marking System uses touch screen technology, it should be in a location that affords the voter privacy in casting a ballot. The moderator and poll workers should understand how it works and be available to set up the ballot for the voter. Anyone may use the IVS Ballot Marking System.

Brennan Rogers School (Gym) - 200 Wilmot Road – Ward 30

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
No accessible parking spaces.	Create two accessible parking spaces at the front of the building in the driveway closest to the entry of the building. These can be temporary spaces with temporary signage provided on a post. Please see the end of this document for signage requirements.
The edge material at the bottom of the ramp is cracked.	Repair the crack with the same or similar material so the transition onto the ramp is level.
Left Handrail at the top of the ramp does not extend 12” beyond the top of the ramp.	Add a 12” handrail extension to achieve compliance.
Interior door force is more than 5 lbs.	Interior door closure should be adjusted to require force of 5lbs. or less to open the door. As an alternative, the door should remain open for the duration of the election.

Mauro/Sheridan Magnet School (Cafeteria) - 191 Fountain St. – Ward 27

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking is far from the polling entrance and is not in the spaces closest to the accessible entrance to the building.	Move the accessible parking spaces to the parking spaces closest to the building and create an appropriate curb ramp to allow access from the new spaces.
There are 4 accessible spaces. They do not have any of the statutorily required signage.	Install proper signage at each of the spaces. Each space must have its own sign that is visible even when a car is parked in the space. See the end of this document for required language on signage.
Path of Travel from the reserved (accessible) parking spaces has an area where a signpost was previously in the ground. The path also has a metal plate covering access to infrastructure piping. The metal plate has a large hole in it that should be filled.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill in the area with the remains of the signpost. 2. Find a way to fill the hole in the metal plate that is sturdy enough to withstand a cane tip.
The large cement area leading to the top of the ramp is broken in many places	Clean up broken cement and replace to create a smooth accessible surface.

Edgewood Magnet School (Cafeteria/Auditorium) - 737 Edgewood Ave. - Ward 25

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Parking is in front of school and across the road. No accessible parking is available.	Create two accessible parking spaces that face the ramp at the front of the building. These can be temporary spaces for the Election. Temporary signage would be needed for each space and temporary paint or other method should be used to create the striping for one van accessible space and one standard space.
The ramp leading into the building is 95'. It does not have the required level landings every 30' of ramp. Handrail heights vary and, in some cases, they are lower than the 34" minimum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebuild the ramp to comply with the Connecticut Building Code and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. 2. A different accessible entrance 3. Choose a new polling site.

Davis Street School (Auditorium) – 35 Davis Street – Ward 26

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking signs have totally faded and cannot be read.	New signage for each accessible space. It should include the new language for “Reserved Parking.” See the end of this document.
Entrance door is 31.5” wide – does not meet the minimum standard of 32” in width.	There is a double door at the entrance with a removable bar between the doors. If the bar is removed, the door will meet the minimum clear width required.

Beecher School (Gym) – 100 Jewel Street – Ward 29

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
There are 4 accessible parking spaces. One of the spaces is missing a sign.	Install a new sign at the parking space that complies with required language for a van accessible space. See the end of this document.
Door threshold going into the exterior door is 1 ½” which exceeds the maximum guidelines by an inch.	Create a threshold that addresses the issue either by installing concrete or a metal threshold that has an angle that eliminates the barrier.
Interior door force exceeds 5lb. limit.	Interior door closure should be adjusted to require a force of 5lbs. or less to open the door. As an alternative, the door should remain open for the duration of the election.

Hillhouse High School (Gym) – 480 Sherman Parkway – Ward 28

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Concrete and asphalt along the path of travel from accessible parking to the exterior entrance is broken in various locations.	Replace concrete and asphalt to create a smooth path of travel.
Interior door force exceeds 5lb limit.	Interior door closure should be adjusted to require a force of 5lbs. or less to open the door. As an alternative, the door should remain open for the duration of the election.

Lincoln-Bassett School (Cafeteria) – 130 Bassett Street – Ward 20

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking signs are totally faded.	New signage for each space. It should include the new language for “Reserved Parking.” See signage requirements at the end of the document.
There is a grate with 2” openings in the crosshatch between two of the accessible spaces.	The grate cover needs to be changed for a cover with openings that do not exceed ½’
The driveway leads to a center concrete walkway that separates two parking lots. Where the asphalt from the parking lot meets the concrete, the pavement is broken.	Repair the asphalt/concrete to create a smooth transition.
<p>Ramp – 36’ long</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No handrails 2. No level landing after 30’ 3. Ramp is not visible when approaching entrance to polling place. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install handrails that meet the State Building Code and ADA requirements 2. On Election Day, ensure that signage indicates the accessible route (if ramp is repaired to be complaint) <p>The level landing issue can only be solved by rebuilding the ramp completely. An alternative is finding a new site for the polling place.</p>

Wexler Grant School (Cafeteria - 2 polling places) – 55 Foote Street – Ward 22

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Parking lot has one space that has an accessible parking sign. The space is not properly striped as required for accessible parking spaces.	<p>For the purposes of an election, at least two accessible or reserve spaces are required. The space in the lot should be made into a proper reserved space that is van accessible. See the end of this document for accessible parking space size requirements.</p> <p>There is an accessible passenger loading zone adjacent to the building that could be made into a reserved/accessible parking space for the day. It would require a proper sign with the appropriate wording. (In the alternative a second space could be created in the lot. – see the paragraph above)</p>

Celentano Museum Academy (Cafeteria) – 400 Canner Street – Ward 19

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking is acceptable but is located in the parking lot which is a long distance from the entrance to the polling place.	While it is not required, the driveway adjacent to the building is used for parking by parents during pickup time for their children. A permanent curb cut and two temporary spaces could be created in this area for Election Day.
The path of travel from the parking to the exterior doors of the polling place has cracks and loose concrete.	Repair the asphalt/concrete to create a smooth surface.

Cross High School (Atrium) – 181 Mitchell Drive – Ward 10

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
There are 4 accessible parking spaces but none of them are van accessible.	The space farthest from the entrance to the polling place should be restriped to meet the van accessible requirements (8' space and 8' of crosshatch).
The signage of the accessible parking spaces needs to be corrected to meet statutory requirements.	Please see the accessible parking signage requirements located at the end of this document.
The door force on the entrance doors is extremely heavy (22 lbs.) and the auto door is not operable.	Fix the auto door so that is useable for voters with disabilities. (The ADA requires maintenance of accessible features.) The reviewers were informed that the wiring needs to be repaired. The auto door is located on the third door from the right as you approach the entrance.
Interior doors of the vestibule are also heavy to open.	The door closer could be adjusted to make the doors easier to open (maximum 5 lbs.) or the doors should be open and remain open for the entire election.

Bella Vista (Community Room) – 343 Eastern Street – Ward 11-1.

Bellavista is a polling place for the residents of the complex who are people with disabilities and seniors. The basic accessibility needed for a polling place is in place. There is no parking but the creation of two temporary spaces is recommended.

East Rock Community Magnet (Cafeteria) – 133 Nash Street – Ward 9

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Striping at the accessible parking is extremely faded.	Restripe the spaces. See information at the end of the document for parking spaces sizes.
There is a piece of rebar sticking up in the second space from the entrance.	Remove the rebar.
The path of travel in front of the accessible parking spaces is blocked by the large cement pieces (wheel stops) intended to stop cars from moving past the head of the space.	Move the wheel stops back to the head of each of the parking spaces and out of the path of travel.
Walkway leading to the entrance door to the polling place is a ramp. It is more than 6’ long and has no handrails	The walkway needs to be treated as a ramp. It should be evaluated to ensure that the slope is not too steep. If not, install handrails. If it is too steep, the area needs to be revamped with a new ramp that includes handrails, level landings, and a slope no greater than 1:12.

East View Terrace – 185 Eastern Street – Ward 11-3

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
The walkways to both the back and front entrances of the East View Terrace polling place meet the definition of a ramp. They do not have handrails. The back entrance does not have a 5” level landing.	<p>Option 1: Find a new location for the polling place.</p> <p>Option 2: Create temporary accessible parking spaces at the top of the driveway associated with the building where the polling place is located. These spaces would be adjacent to the rear entrance which would need to be modified to meet the requirements for the ramp. The latch side clearance would also need to be addressed. (See next issue).</p>
The back entrance does not have a 24” latch side clearance at the door. The clearance is only 4”	Create a 5’ level landing at the exterior door that includes 24” of latch side clearance.

Nathan Hale School (Cafeteria) – 480 Townsend Avenue – Ward 18

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
In front of the accessible parking spaces, the crack where the asphalt ends and the concrete sidewalk begins is 1" wide, exceeding the ½" requirement.	Replace the rubber filler in the joint to raise the level of material and level the transition from asphalt to cement.
Accessible parking signs at the accessible spaces do not include the amount of the fine for illegally parking in the space.	Add required signage to the spaces. See the end of this document.
Door opening force for the exterior door to the polling place is 13lbs which exceeds the 8.5 lb. advisory guideline in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. (ADAAG).	Adjust the door closer to decrease the force needed to open the door. If it is not possible an auto door should be installed.
Note: Accessible parking spaces should be the closest parking spaces to the accessible entrance. The principal and vice principal have these spaces reserved.	When restriping, make the closest spaces to the entrance the accessible parking spaces.

Truman School (Gym) - 114 Truman Street – Ward 4

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Parking is on the street or at the spaces leading to the school. There is no accessible parking or curb cut. The curb cut where the street meets the road leading into the school is not sufficient and is potentially hazardous to anyone trying to use it as a curb ramp for access to the parking spaces.	A curb cut needs to be installed in conjunction with either permanent or temporary accessible parking spaces. This can be constructed in the cut out for parking spaces on Washington Ave. adjacent to the school or on the driveway in front of the school parallel to Barclay St. See signage requirements at the end of this document.
Door at entrance to the polling place is only 31.5" which does not meet the minimum clear width of 32"	There is a double door at the entrance with a removable bar between the doors. If the bar is removed, the door will meet the minimum clear width required.

Jepson Magnet School (Cafeteria) – 15 Lexington Avenue – Ward 13

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Van accessible sign at the van accessible space is extremely faded and needs replacement.	Replace the van accessible sign with sign meeting statutory requirements. See the end of this document.
Space between the curb ramp and the level area leading to the exterior door has a 1" crack exceeding the ½" maximum.	Fill the crack with appropriate material.
The door width is only 31" with the center bar between the doors in place.	Remove the center bar for the duration of the Election.
There is an auto door that is operable from the inside but there is no button (security) on the exterior.	Install a door opening pad to allow for exterior access to the auto door during the Election.
The interior path leading to the polling place in the cafeteria/multipurpose room is long.	There are no accessibility requirements. It is however, recommended that two chairs be placed along the path of travel every 50' or 75' so individuals who cannot walk long distances have an opportunity to sit and rest.

King Robinson School (Cafeteria) – 150 Fournier Street – Ward 21

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
The crosshatch aisle between two of the accessible parking spaces is 11' wide. This allows enough room to park a large vehicle. During this review, a vehicle was illegally parked in the space.	Consider restriping the spaces to create 2 van accessible spaces, each with its own crosshatch aisle. See the end of this document for space and size requirements.

Woodward Firehouse – 824 Woodward Avenue – Ward 17

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Only street parking is available at this location. There are no accessible parking spaces on the street	Create two accessible temporary parking spaces in front of the firehouse bay doors. See end of document for accessible parking space requirements.

Community Room – 197C Chatham Street – Ward 15

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
All parking is on the street. There is no lot for the polling place.	Registrars indicated that they set up temporary accessible parking spaces. This should continue. Signage should meet statutory requirements. See end of this document.
Handrails at the top of the ramp do not extend 12” beyond the end of the ramp.	Add extenders to the ends of the handrails at the top of the ramp.

Bishop Woods School (Cafeteria/Auditorium) – 1481 Quinnipiac Ave. – Ward 11-2

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
The striping of the accessible parking spaces is extremely faded.	Spaces should be restriped according to the statutory requirements. Please see the end of this document for signage and space size requirements.
One of the accessible parking spaces is missing the signage.	Install a new sign at the head of the space. It must meet the requirements for signs installed after January 1, 2017 – “Reserved Parking.”
The pavement joint in front of the accessible parking spaces, has a 1 ½” gap exceeding the ½” maximum.	Fill the joint with an appropriate material to level the transition from asphalt to cement.
Threshold at the exterior door leading to the polling place is ¾” in one place and 1” in another. Exceeding the ½” threshold max.	Use cement to create a threshold ramp or install a metal threshold ramp at the door.
Exterior door force is greater than recommended 8.5 lbs.	Adjust the closer on the door or leave open during entire election.

Atwater Senior Center – 26 Atwater Street – Ward 14

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
All parking is on the street. No polling place lot.	Registrars indicated that they set up temporary accessible parking spaces. This should continue. The spaces should be on the street in front of the Senior Center, one on either side of the curb cut. See end of this document for accessible space signage requirements.

200 Orange Street

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
No reserved/accessible parking on the streets. The meters are bagged so voters may park for free. There is no curb cut at these spaces.	<p>Create two temporary accessible parking spaces where the meters are bagged. They should be closest to the ramped entrance to the polling place. See required signage at the end of this document.</p> <p>A curb cut should be created to allow access from the accessible spaces to the path of travel.</p>
The path of travel from the parking spaces to the ramp and the ramp itself, have crumbling concrete.	Resurface the concrete to create an accessible path of travel from the parking to the ramped entrance to the polling place.
External ramp leading to entry is 30" long but has no handrails. The slope exceeds the maximum 1:12. When it rains, the bottom of the ramp is a puddle. The puddle could also freeze creating a hazardous condition.	The surface of the ramp needs to be repaired so that it is smooth. Install handrails on either side of the ramp. The ramp should be evaluated and reconstructed to meet the requirements of the building code and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Betsy Ross (Cafeteria) – 150 Kimberly Avenue – Ward 5

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking needs to be restriped. The paint is very faint, and the spaces are hard to delineate.	There are 5 accessible parking spaces. They should be restriped, and the signs updated to include the required parking language. See requirements the end of this document.
All the exterior doors leading to the polling place are only 30.5 inches wide.	The door leading to the cafeteria, the location of the polling place should be replaced with a door that meets the minimum of 32" clear width.
The tile inside the cafeteria door is broken.	Need to repair the tile.
Concrete on path of travel from the accessible parking spaces to the door of the cafeteria is broken up.	Repair the concrete. (Not an extensive repair).

Roberto Clemente (Gym) - 360 Columbus Avenue – Ward 6

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
<p>Accessible parking is in a lot across the driveway from the entrance to the polling place. This is a heavily used route which could create a safety issue for people who use mobility devices. The driveway ramp included in the accessible route from the lot to the school, has broken concrete and a 2" threshold that exceeds the ½" maximum threshold.</p>	<p>Create two temporary accessible spaces on the school property in the area adjacent to the polling place entrance. (There are dumpsters in the area). The Registrars of Voters reported that they have done this in the past. The spaces need to have appropriate signage and should be properly striped (van accessible and regular accessible space). See the accessible parking requirements at the end of this document.</p>

Career High School (Cafeteria) – 140 Legion Avenue – Ward 3-1

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
<p>No parking near the entrance to the polling place. Cars park along the curb and in a lot on the other side of the building. The closest curb cut needs repair.</p>	<p>Create two temporary accessible parking spaces as close to the building as possible. They should be located on the road adjacent to the curb cut on either side of the curb cut. The curb cut should be repaired.</p>
<p>The Auto Door used for accessibility is not working. (The ADA requires maintenance of accessible features)</p>	<p>The Auto Door should be repaired and available for the Election.</p>
<p>Just before the exterior door, there is a 1" crack in expansion joint.</p>	<p>Expansion joint filler should be used to fill the crack and create a smooth transition to the threshold of the door.</p>

24. Ellsworth Fire Station – 120 Ellsworth Avenue – Ward 24

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
<p>There is only one parking space. It has a sign but is not accessible. It is not striped, and the signage is old and needs replacement.</p>	<p>Refresh the current accessible space with new correct signage and restriping to be a van accessible space. In addition, create a temporary accessible space in front of the doors of the firehouse but out of the line of traffic with the fire apparatus. This should be a standard accessible space.</p>

Barnard School (Cafeteria) – 170 Derby Avenue – Ward 23

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
There are 4 accessible spaces in the parking lot. They are located near the main entrance to the school and are not the closest spaces to the accessible entrance to the polling place.	Create two temporary accessible spaces on the road adjacent to the accessible entrance – one on either side of the curb ramp or create two accessible spaces in the parking lot in the area closest to the accessible entrance.
The ramp is not immediately visible because it is hidden behind a brick wall.	Polling place signage should be used to indicate the accessible route to the polling place.
The ramp is 32' long and does not have a level landing. A level landing should be included at least every 30' to provide a resting area.	The ramp technically should be redone unless there is a waiver that was generated from the Office of the State Building Inspector.
Exterior door is only 31" wide.	Remove the bar from the set of double doors. This will provide the extra inch required by the codes.
Exterior door force is 20lbs, exceeding the recommended 8.5lbs of force for exterior doors.	Door closer should be adjusted to lighten the force/strength needed to open and close it (8.5lbs. of force or less). Accessibility can also be achieved with the installation of an auto door.

Conte West Hills Magnet (Gym) – 511 Chapel Street – Ward 8

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
Accessible parking spaces are not distributed among the accessible entrances and are located on the opposite of the building from the entrance to the polling place. One of the current spaces is also missing signage, there is no “van accessible” space and the remaining spaces are not striped correctly.	<p>Create two temporary parking spaces close to the entrance of the polling place:</p> <p>Option 1 – Create the spaces in the lot across from the current entrance.</p> <p>Option 2 – Flip the entrance and exits and create two accessible parking spaces in the back lot adjacent to the new entrance (old exit).</p>
Depending on the path chosen, concrete may need repair.	Repair the concrete on the path of travel from the parking spaces to the polling place entrance
Current exterior door at the exit is only 30.5" wide.	Remove bar between the double doors and keep both open on Election Day.

Troup Magnet School (Gym) – 259 Edgewood Avenue – Ward 2

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
There are two accessible spaces but the striping on both spaces is very faint. Neither space is van accessible. One space is missing its signage. There are cracks in the cement where the asphalt at the spaces meets the concrete of the sidewalk.	Restripe the spaces – be sure one space is van accessible. The second space may be van accessible or a standard space. Add appropriate signage for each space. See information on accessible spaces at the end of this document. Repair the concrete to create a smooth transition from asphalt to sidewalk.
The path from the accessible parking spaces to the entrance door is long and sloped. It is not a sidewalk. It much longer than 6' and should have handrails and level landings.	The solutions include: 1. Choose another location. 2.Create a driveway cut that would allow cars to drive down and park close to the entrance. Two temporary accessible spaces could be created close to the polling place entrance. 3. Ramp the walkway (does not seem realistic).
Grate in the path of travel has openings that are 1½" wide.	Need a new grate cover with openings that do not exceed ½".

Main Library (Community Room) – 133 Elm Street – Ward 1

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
There is one accessible parking space on the street. The signage is not correct and there is no curb cut for access by a person who uses a mobility device.	Create a new accessible parking space, temporary or permanent, with appropriate signage and change the sign at the current space to meet signage requirements. Create a curb cut that can serve both parking spaces.
The interior door to the polling place at the community room entrance is only 29" wide.	Remove the bar between the doors and keep both open during the hours the polling place is open.
Note: The Library has two entrances that can be used for access. One entrance has an elevator. It is 47"x 56" which does not conform to the required minimum of 51"x51."	The second entrance is accessed by a ramp. Also, the elevator has a rear exit door and, therefore, does not require the voter to turn around. This should be sufficient access for voters using mobility devices.

John S. Martinez School (Cafeteria) – 100 James Street – Ward 16

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
<p>The parking lot is located a distance from the entrance to the polling place. On Election Day, voters also park along the roadway adjacent to the polling place entrance which is the closest parking to the entrance to the polling place. There is a driveway cut out but there are no accessible spaces.</p>	<p>Create two temporary accessible parking spaces on the street at the curb. One space should be in front of the driveway cut and the other behind it. Signage for the spaces should follow the requirements as listed at the end of this document.</p>
<p>The cement on the driveway cut out is cracked and in need of repair.</p>	<p>Repair the cement and create a threshold that is no more than ½” in height.</p>
<p>There are cracks and missing concrete in the path of travel between the curb and the entrance to the polling place.</p>	<p>Replace concrete to create a smooth path of travel between accessible parking and the entrance to the polling place.</p>
<p>The door weight is 10lbs. which exceeds the 8.5 advisory limit in the ADAAG.</p>	<p>Adjust the door closer to decrease the force needed to open the door. If the door force cannot be decreased, the door should be permanently open during an Election.</p>

Ross Woodard School (Gym) - 185 Barnes Avenue – Ward 12

Accessibility Issue	Possible Solutions
<p>There is no parking lot near the entrance to the polling place. Voters generally park in the driveway adjacent to the polling place. The Gym is at one corner of the school building and is bordered by sidewalks and an adjacent driveway on two sides, both have direct access to the outside of the building. There is a curb ramp on the corner of the sidewalk where the two exterior sides of the Gym area meet. The curb ramp allows access from the sidewalk to the driveway.</p>	<p>Create two temporary accessible parking spaces on the side of the curb ramp that does not have the grate. The openings in the grate exceed the ½” maximum, creating a possible hazard for voters with disabilities who use mobility devices.</p>

Handicapped/Reserved/Accessible Parking

Handicapped, Reserved, Accessible – All of these terms are used to describe parking for people with disabilities. “Handicapped Parking” is the commonly known and used term that derives from the use of the language “handicapped parking” on signs designating accessible parking for people with disabilities. In relevant state and federal statutes, the terminology used is generally “accessible” parking. New signage requirements for accessible parking spaces in Connecticut, changes language to “reserved parking” as of January 1, 2017. Such confusion. For the purposes of this document, the term “accessible” will be used to mean accessible, handicapped or reserved unless the other terms are specifically required.

Signage – Signage at accessible spaces is often out of compliance with requirements of Connecticut General Statute §14-253a. Signs are often missing critical elements of the signage requirements and the statute only requires new signage when signs are replaced, repaired, or erected. Public Act 16-78 changed the signage requirements to include the new dynamic symbol of Access and the wording “Handicapped Parking” was changed to “Reserved Parking.” The additional required language did not change.

Please note: Signs should be posted above grade so they can be seen with a vehicle in the space. They should also be adjacent to curb cuts and or other unobstructed methods permitting sidewalk access.

The following is language on signage prior to January 1, 2017, and after January 1, 2017.

Requirements	Signage Before January 1, 2017	Signage After January 2017
Background and Text Colors	Blue background with white lettering	Blue background with white lettering
Symbol of Accessibility	Static – International Symbol of Accessibility	Dynamic Symbol of Access
Required Language	“handicapped parking permit required” and “violators will be fined”	“reserved parking permit required” and “violators will be fined”
Must indicate the minimum fine for illegally parking in the space.	Yes For example: Minimum fine \$250.00	Yes For example: Minimum fine \$250.00
If the space is a van accessible space	Language on the sign must include: “van accessible”	Language on the sign must include: “van accessible”

<u>Example of Signage Before January 1, 2017</u>	<u>Example of Signage After January 1, 2017</u>
 <p>A blue rectangular sign with rounded corners. At the top is the white International Symbol of Access (a person in a wheelchair). Below the symbol, the text reads "HANDICAPPED PARKING" in large white letters, followed by "PERMIT REQUIRED" in smaller white letters. At the bottom, it says "VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED MIN \$150".</p>	 <p>A blue rectangular sign with rounded corners. At the top is the white International Symbol of Access. Below the symbol, the text reads "RESERVED PARKING" in large white letters, followed by "PERMIT REQUIRED" in smaller white letters, and "VAN ACCESSIBLE" in larger white letters. At the bottom, it says "VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED MIN \$150".</p>
Standard Sign	Van Accessible Space Signage

Types and Sizes of Accessible Parking Spaces – The types and sizes of accessible parking spaces is another area of confusion. The required sizes of the spaces have varied over time. There are two types of accessible spaces, a van accessible space and a standard accessible space. When accessible parking is required, every **sixth accessible parking space must be “van accessible” starting with the first accessible space.**

Van Accessible Space Size – Van Accessible” spaces must be 16’ wide including an 8’ parking space and 8’ of crosshatch. The crosshatch is used by accessible vans that have ramps and need the wider width for ramp to open.

Standard Accessible Space - A standard accessible space is 15’ wide including a 10’ space and 5’ of crosshatch. Please note, however, that there are existing spaces in Connecticut that are configured as 15’ wide with a 12’ space and 3’ of crosshatch. These spaces are acceptable but must be changed to the current 10’/5’ configuration when they are restriped.

