

2023 Polling Site Accessibility Report: Wetzel County, WV

Disability Rights of West Virginia (DRWV) is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities in West Virginia. One of DRWV's grants is Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA). The PAVA grant program allows DRWV to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access full participation in the election process.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires state and local governments (public entities) to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote. The ADA's provisions apply to all aspects of voting, including polling places. People with disabilities must have the opportunity to be full participants in an integrated civic event.

On October 11, 2023, a DRWV Advocate completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all precincts in Wetzel County and this report contains our findings. The following ADA codes referenced below are the most common issues noted in this county.

206.2.1 Site Arrival Points. At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve.

302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. Access aisles shall be at the same level as the parking spaces they serve. Changes in level are not permitted. EXCEPTION: Slopes not steeper than 1:48 shall be permitted.

309.4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum.

502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3. EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum whereas the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.

502.6 Identification. Parking space identification signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility complying with 703.7.2.1. Signs identifying van parking spaces shall contain the designation "van accessible." Signs shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.

The **2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Designs** referenced in this report can be found online at:

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAStandards_prt.pdf

Four other valuable resources have been included for your reference:

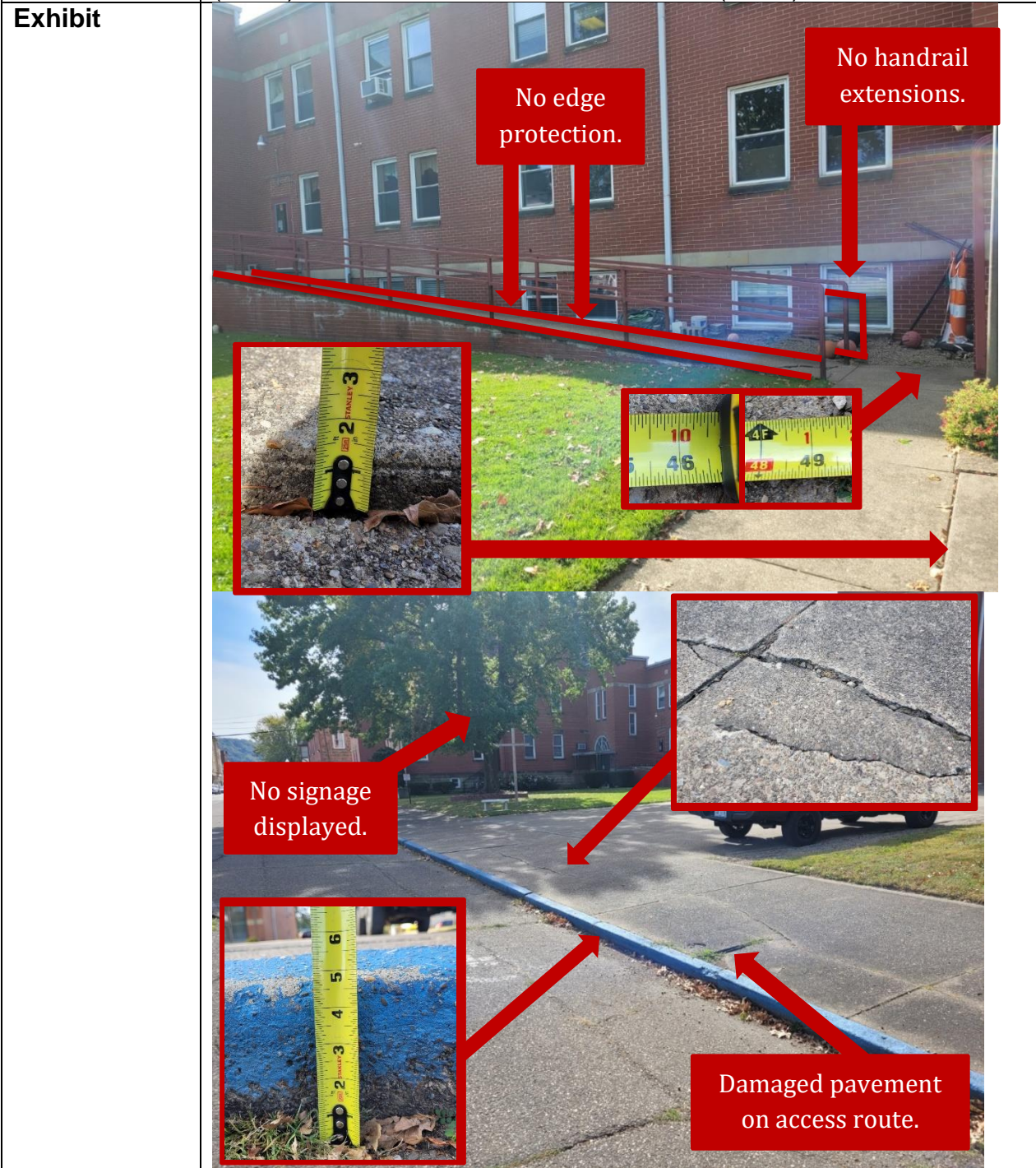
- ADA Checklist for Polling Places <https://www.ada.gov/votingck.htm>
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and Other Federal Laws Protecting the Rights of Voters with Disabilities
https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_ta.htm
- Solutions for Five Common ADA Access Problems at Polling Places
https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/voting_solutions_ta/polling_place_solutions.htm
- ADA Quick Tips Tax Incentives <https://adata.org/factsheet/quicktips-tax>

The ADA requires that public entities ensure that people with disabilities can access and use all voting facilities. Because a mix of public and private facilities are used as polling places, public entities may ensure Election Day accessibility of a polling place by using low-cost, temporary measures, such as portable ramps or door stops, rather than making permanent modifications to a building. If temporary measures will not fix a barrier, and public entities are unable to make a permanent modification to fix the barrier, then the public entity must look for an alternative, accessible polling place.

The tables on the following pages list the ADA Standards and ADA Title II regulations, if applicable, for each area we monitored, the issues noted at each site, if any, and suggestions for meeting ADA compliance on election days. Please note that the following is a condensed version of the full accessibility report that was provided to Wetzel County Election Officials.

ACM Church

Issue(s) No accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). There is no curb ramp (303.4). The access route is unstable due to damaged areas and cracks in the pavement (302.1). The ramp is unstable due to damaged pavement (405.4). There is no edge protection provided on the ramp (405.9). The slope of the ramp exceeds ADA Standards (405.2). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4).



<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Relocation may be the best option for this polling site, unless there is another entrance that complies with ADA Standards, or the issues identified are addressed.</p>


<p>Billy Howell's Garage</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The parking facility and access route are unstable due to grass and gravel (302.1, 502.4). There is no van accessible parking space provided (208.2.4, 502.2). There is a 4 ¼-inch lipped edge to the side door and a 2-inch lipped edge on the pavement to the garage door (303.4).</p>


<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install a paved area for at least one van accessible parking space and access aisle, or alternatively, utilize the inner garage area for a temporary van accessible parking space. <i>Note: If the inside area was used for a van accessible parking space, ensure it fully meets ADA Standards. Also ensure there is an accessible route connecting the parking facility to the entrance and voting area. Utilize a wedge or mat at the entrance to resolve the lipped edge at the door.</i></p>

<p>Board of Education Office</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>There is no accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). There is no access aisle provided (502.2, 502.3). There is no edge protection provided on the ramp (405.9). The ramp is missing handrail extensions at the bottom and an interior handrail (405.8, 505.10.1).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install an interior handrail, handrail extensions, and edge protection on the ramp, adhering to ADA Standards. Install van accessible parking signage to the minimum required height. Install an access aisle for the accessible parking space, clearly identifying it in a way that discourages parking within it.</p>

<p>Danny Westfall's Garage</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>No accessible parking spaces provided (502.2).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install at least one van accessible parking space with adjoining access aisle and appropriate signage.</p>

<p>Folsom Fire Department</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>No accessible parking spaces provided (502.2).</p>
<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install at least one van accessible parking space with adjoining access aisle and appropriate signage.</p>

Grandview-Doolin PSD

Issue(s)	The parking facility and access route are unstable due to gravel and slope (302.1, 502.4). There is no van accessible parking space provided (502.2). The slope of the ramp exceeds ADA Standards (405.2). The ramp does not have a level landing, measured 60" by 60" at the top, bottom, or where it changes direction (405.7). The ramp is missing interior handrails on the second section (405.8). The ramp is missing handrail extensions at the end of the ramp (505.10.1). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4). The boards on the ramp are softening in certain areas, causing it to become unstable (405.4).
-----------------	---

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Relocation may be the best option for this polling site, unless there is another entrance that complies with ADA Standards, or the issues identified are addressed.</p>


<p>Hundred High School</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>No accessible parking signage is displayed (502.6). The access route is unstable due to gravel and damage in the pavement (302.1). The slope of the accessible route exceeds ADA Standards (402.2). The accessible parking space is located on a slope (502.4).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Since the running slope of the accessible route exceeds 5%, it can be treated as a ramp if handrails are properly installed. Install handrails complying with ADA Standards that extend the full length of the accessible route. Install appropriate accessible parking signage at the minimum required height. Clear the debris and gravel from the accessible route to ensure a stable, firm, and non-slip surface. Utilize mats to cover the 1-inch opening in the pavement.</p>

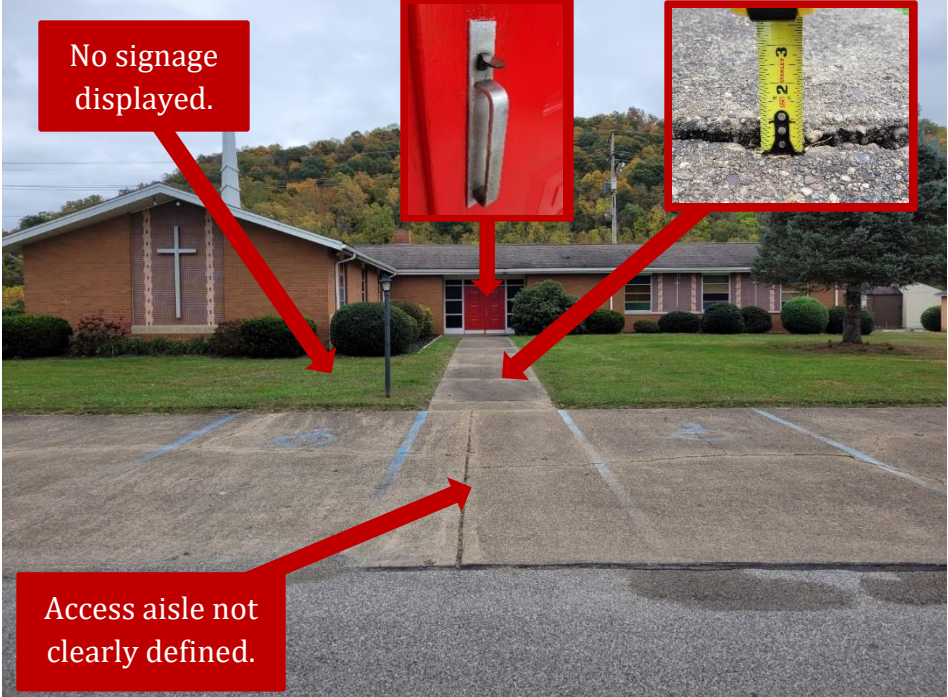
<p>John Tustin's Building</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The parking facility is unstable (502.4). There are no accessible parking spaces provided (502.2). There is no accessible route from the parking facility (206.2.1, 502.7). There is a 1 ½ inch lipped edge on the pavement and a 1 ¾ inch lipped edge at the door (303.4). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install a paved area for at least one van accessible parking space and access aisle, or alternatively, utilize the inner garage area for a temporary van accessible parking space. <i>Note: If the inside area was used for a van accessible parking space, ensure it fully meets ADA Standards. Also ensure there is an accessible route connecting the parking facility to the entrance and voting area.</i> Utilize a wedge or mat at the entrance to resolve the lipped edge at the door. Replace the inaccessible door hardware with a push, loop, or pull hardware, or prop the door open during election day.</p>

<p>Long Drain Elementary School</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>No accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). No access aisles provided (502.2, 502.3). There is a ½ inch opening in the pavement, a 1 inch lipped edge on the sidewalk, and a damaged area on the accessible route causing obstructions (302.1, 303.4).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	 <p>No signage displayed. No access aisle.</p>
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Utilize mats to cover the damaged area, lipped edge, and opening in pavement on the accessible route to ensure a stable, firm, and non-slip surface. Install an access aisle to adjoin the accessible parking space and parking signage, adhering to ADA Standards. Designate the accessible parking space to be van accessible.</p>

<p>Lutheran Church</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>There is no accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). Neither accessible parking space is designated to be van accessible (208.2.4, 502.2). The shared access aisle is not clearly identified (502.3.3). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4). There are damaged areas in the pavement, causing obstructions in the access route (302.1).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	 <p>The photograph shows the entrance to Mobley School House. A paved access aisle leads from a parking lot to a red door. Three callout boxes highlight issues: 'No signage displayed.' points to the lack of an accessible parking sign; 'Access aisle not clearly defined.' points to the lack of clear markings on the pavement; and a close-up of the door handle shows it is a traditional knob, not accessible hardware. An inset image shows a yellow measuring tape indicating a 3-inch gap in the pavement.</p>
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install accessible parking signage at the required height, ensuring at least one space is designated to be van accessible. Mark the access aisle in a way that discourages parking within it. Utilize a mat to cover the opening in the pavement to ensure a stable, firm, and non-slip surface on the accessible route. Replace the inaccessible door hardware with a push, pull, or loop hardware or prop the door open during election hours.</p>

<p>Mobley School House</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The parking facility is unstable due to grass (502.4). The access route is unstable due to slope, gravel, and grass (403.1). No accessible parking is provided (502.2). The slope of the ramp exceeds ADA Standards (405.2). There is a 1 ½-inch lipped edge at the bottom of the ramp (303.4). There is a 1 ¼-inch lipped edge at the entrance door (303.4).</p>


Exhibit



Suggestions for ADA Compliance

Relocation may be the best option for this polling site, unless there is another entrance that better complies with ADA Standards, or the issues identified are addressed.

New Martinsville School


Issue(s)	The existing accessible parking signage is not displayed at the proper height (502.6). Neither accessible parking space has an adjoining access aisle nor are they van accessible (502.2, 502.3). The slope of the ramp exceeds ADA Standards (405.2). There is a ½-inch crack in the pavement causing an obstruction on the access route (302.1, 403.2).
Exhibit	 <p>The exhibit photograph shows an accessible parking lot with several blue-painted spaces. Red callout boxes highlight specific issues: one shows a sign mounted too high on a fence; another shows a 1/2-inch crack in the pavement; a third shows a steep ramp leading to a building entrance; and a fourth shows a red box with the text 'No access aisle.' pointing to a narrow path between spaces.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Since the slope of the accessible route exceeds ADA Standards for ramps, it cannot be utilized unless the structure is rebuilt entirely. It may be best to identify an alternative entrance that complies with ADA Standards. Try to select an entrance that is closest to the accessible parking facility. Designate at least one of the parking spaces to be van accessible, with appropriate signage and an access aisle. <i>Note: While the left parking space is missing an access aisle, only one accessible parking space is required. Therefore, installing an access aisle for the additional space is not required so long as the right parking space is adjusted to meet ADA Standards.</i>

Paden City Building	
Issue(s)	The accessible parking space does not have an adjoining access aisle, nor does it meet minimum width requirements (502.2, 502.3). The accessible parking space is not designated to be van accessible (502.2). There are cracks and damaged areas of the pavement causing the access route to be unstable (302.1, 403.2).

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Adjust the existing accessible parking space to fit the size requirements as outlined in the ADA Standards and install an adjoining access aisle. Designate the accessible parking space to be van accessible. Repair the damaged areas in the pavement on the accessible route or utilize mats to ensure a stable, firm, and non-slip surface.</p>

<p>Paden City Elementary</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The accessible parking space does not have an adjoining access aisle, nor is it designated to be van accessible (502.2, 502.3).</p>

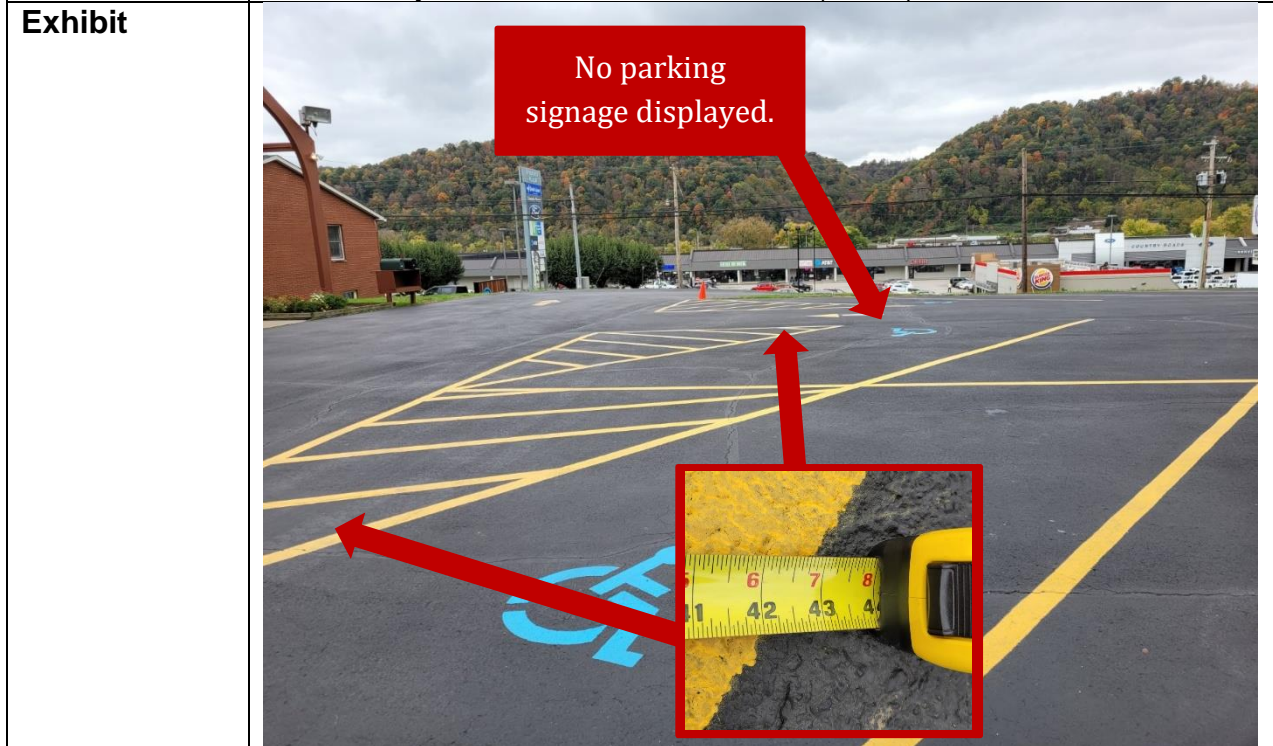
<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Install an adjoining access aisle for the accessible parking space, marking it in a manner that would discourage parking within it. Install van accessible signage.</p>

<p>Raymond Lasure's Building</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The parking facility and access route are unstable due to gravel (502.4). There is no van accessible parking space provided (502.2). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4).</p>
<p>Exhibit</p>	

Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Install a paved area for an accessible parking facility or utilize temporary measures. Note that the parking facility and parked vehicles cannot obstruct the accessible route to the entrance. Replace the inaccessible door hardware with a push, pull, or loop hardware, or prop the door open during election hours.
---------------------------------------	--

The Refuge Church

Issue(s)	There is no accessible parking signage displayed, nor is any space designated to be van accessible (502.2, 502.6). While the access aisles do extend the full length of the parking spaces, they do not consistently measure at least 60" wide (502.3).
-----------------	---



Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Install accessible parking signage to the required height, designating at least one parking space to be van accessible. Adjust the access aisles to meet ADA Standards; Since the existing access aisles are angled, they do not meet width requirements at every point.
---------------------------------------	--

Short Line School

Issue(s)	No accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). The accessible parking spaces are not clearly defined by the painted lines (502.2). The slope of the curb ramp and flared sides exceed ADA Standards (405.2, 406.3). The pavement on the curb ramp is damaged, causing the access route to be unstable (403.2, 405.4).
-----------------	---




<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Since the slope of the curb ramp exceeds ADA Standards for ramps, it cannot be utilized unless the structure is rebuilt entirely. Additionally, the damaged areas on the curb ramp would be difficult to solve without further increasing the slope of the curb ramp. Clearly identify the accessible parking spaces and access aisles with striped lines. Designate at least one of the parking spaces to be van accessible, with appropriate signage.</p>
--	--


<p>Trinity Presbyterian Church</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>There is no accessible parking signage displayed (502.6). There is no curb ramp provided (303.4). The accessible parking space is located on a slope (502.4). The access route has abrupt changes in slope and damaged areas in the pavement, causing it to be unstable (402.2). The door hardware is inaccessible (309.4). There is a 1-inch lipped edge at the entrance door (303.4).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Relocation may be the best option for this polling site, unless there is another entrance that complies with ADA Standards, or the issues identified are addressed.</p>

<p>Valley High School</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The accessible parking signage is not displayed at the proper height (502.6). The slope of the access route exceeds ADA Standards (402.2). There are no access aisles provided (502.3). The flared edges of the curb ramp exceed ADA Standards (406.3).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	 <p>The photograph shows a parking lot at Valley High School. Three callouts are present: 1) A red box around a digital sign displaying '183' with a red arrow pointing to a signpost. 2) A red box around a coin-operated sign with a red arrow pointing to a signpost. 3) A red box with the text 'No access aisles.' and a red arrow pointing to a parking space. A fourth red box around a digital sign displaying '68' has a red arrow pointing to a parking space.</p>
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Adjust the existing accessible parking signage to the proper height. Designate at least one accessible parking space to be van accessible. Adjust the curb ramp to comply with ADA Standards. It may be best to identify another entrance at this location to utilize for election day that better complies with ADA Standards.</p>

<p>Wetzel County Technical Center</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The existing accessible parking signage is not displayed at the proper height (502.6). The accessible parking space is not designated as van accessible (502.2). The parking space's adjoining access aisle does not extend the full length of the accessible parking space (502.2, 502.3).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Adjust the existing accessible parking signage to the proper height. Designate at least one accessible parking space to be van accessible. Adjust the access aisle (relocating to the other side of the parking space may be best), ensuring it extends the full length of the parking space.</p>

<p>Wileyville Fire Department</p>	
<p>Issue(s)</p>	<p>The parking facility and access route is unstable (302.1, 403.2, 502.4). There is a 4-inch crack in the pavement, causing an obstruction on the access route (302.1, 403.2). There is no accessible parking provided (502.2). The slope of the ramp exceeds ADA Standards (405.2). There is no edge protection or handrail extensions provided on the ramp (405.9, 505.10.1). There is no level landing provided at the top of the ramp, in front of the door (405.7).</p>

<p>Exhibit</p>	
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>Address the issues identified or utilize another entrance at this location that complies with ADA Standards.</p>

Disability Rights of WV strives to ensure all polling sites in West Virginia are accessible for voters with disabilities. If you have accessibility concerns about your polling site or would like your polling site to be evaluated for accessibility, please contact our office via email pava@drowv.org or by calling 304-346-0847.