

**Pierce County Accessible Voting Advisory Committee
Operation Guidelines: Approved at March 12, 2010 Meeting**

Purpose

The Washington State Legislature finds that the elimination of polling places resulting from the transition to vote by mail creates barriers that restrict the ability of many voters with disabilities from achieving the independence and privacy in voting provided by the accessible voting devices required under the help America vote act. Counties adopting a vote by mail system must take appropriate steps to mitigate these impacts and to address the obligation to provide voters with disabilities an equal opportunity to vote independently and privately, to the extent that this can be achieved without incurring undue administrative and financial burden.

Each county shall establish and maintain an advisory committee that includes persons with diverse disabilities and persons with expertise in providing accommodations with disabilities. The committee shall assist election officials in developing a plan to identify and implement changes to improve the accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities.

Members

Committee membership will consist of a maximum of 12 persons with diverse disabilities and persons with expertise in providing assistance to those with disabilities.

Initial Committee members shall be appointed by the Director of the Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities, Center for Independence and/or the Pierce County Auditor.

Additional members may be nominated for membership by the above named individuals and/or members of the Advisory Committee, and will be subject to a vote by the current members of the Advisory committee.

Members of the Advisory Committee with two or more unexcused absences will be dropped from the Advisory Committee.

Staff from the Pierce County Auditor's Office, Center for Independence and TACID may attend committee meetings in an advisory, non-voting capacity

Officers

The Advisory Committee will nominate candidates and elect a Chairperson. The Chairperson will serve for a term of one year and may be elected to additional terms.

The Chairperson will act as the presiding officer for all Advisory Committee meetings.

Additional Officers may be elected as necessary as determined by the Advisory Committee.

Elections shall be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.

Procedures

Procedures for the meetings of the Advisory Committee will follow Roberts Rules of order as appropriate. Questions raised in regard to these procedures shall be ruled upon by the chair.

Disputes regarding procedures will be voted on by the members present.

Recommendations

The Advisory Committee will make recommendations regarding voter accessibility to the Pierce County Auditor. Such recommendations will be voted on by the Committee.

Voting

Voting on membership, officers, recommendations or procedures will require a quorum of the membership. A quorum is defined as more than 50% of the members of the Committee present and voting.

Approval of members and/or recommendations to the Pierce County Auditor will be by a simple majority vote of those members present.