

5. Signage

Sections 11B-216 and 11B-703

Signage is used extensively on Election Day to direct voters arriving at the polling place to the voting area. However, not all areas or features of a building open on Election Day are under the jurisdiction of county elections officials. For this reason, those areas of a facility used by county elections officials shall be clearly marked to provide accessibility for all voters. (CCR, Sections 11B-216.2 and 11B-216.3.)

When a voter arrives at the polling place, several signs may be necessary to show elderly voters and voters with disabilities where to vote. All directional entrance signs placed at arrival points to the polling place shall conform with this section. Additional directional signs shall be provided to guide voters toward and through the accessible route to the voting area whenever that path diverges from the regular circulation path/accessible route. (CCR, Sections 11B-216.6 and 11B-703.5.)

The standard symbol used to identify facilities and features that are accessible to elderly voters and persons with disabilities is the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). The ISA used by county elections officials consists of a white figure on a blue background. (CCR, Section 11B-703.7.2.1.) See Figure 16.



Figure 16: International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA)

Providing way-finding signage to the voting area is accomplished by using the ISA in conjunction with large bold arrows and/or other directional symbols. All accessible signage regardless of content shall have a non-glare finish. (CCR, Sections 11B-216.6 and 11B-703.5.1.) For signage that must be laminated to withstand exterior weather conditions, it is recommended that a matte or eggshell finish laminate be applied to reduce glare.

Accessible signs shall also have character and symbol colors that contrast with the background color. (Dark on a light background or light on a dark background.) (CCR, Sections 11B-703.5.1 and 11B-703.7.1.) See Figure 17.



Figure 17: Accessible sign showing light characters on a dark background.

At polling sites where not all entrances are accessible, those entrances that comply with these guidelines shall be identified with an ISA. Entrances which are not accessible on Election Day shall have directional signage that indicates the route to the nearest accessible entrance. Directional signs must be placed at the inaccessible entrance or at the junction where the accessible route diverges from the non-accessible route. (CCR, Section 11B-216.6.) Directional signs shall have contrasting colors and non-glare finish (CCR, Sections 11B-216.6 and 11B-703.5.1.) Directional and informational signs do not require raised letters and Braille. See Figure 18.



Figure 18: Accessible directional signage indicating the route to the accessible polling place entrance.

Permanent rooms and spaces identified with names or room numbers that are used by elections officials shall be identified with signs containing the corresponding names and numbers in raised letters/numerals and Braille. (CCR, Sections 11B-703 and 11B-703.2.)

These signs shall be installed on the wall adjacent to the latch-side, or strike-side edge, of the door. If there is no wall space on the latch-side of the door (for example double doors) signs shall be placed on the nearest adjacent wall, preferably on the right side. (CCR, Sections 11B-703.4.2 and 11B-703.5.) See Figure 19.

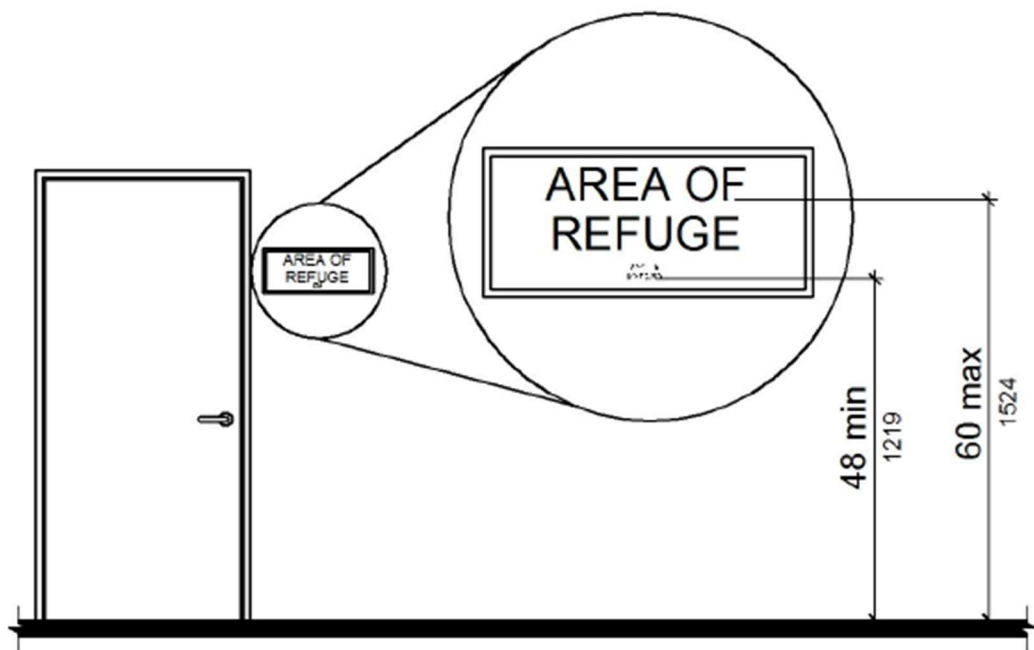


Figure 19: Diagram showing height of a wall sign tactile characters above finished floor or ground

Tactile characters on signs shall be placed so the lowest part of any Braille cell is 48 inches or higher above the floor and the bottom of any tactile letter is no more than 60 inches above the floor measured from the baseline of raised characters. (CCR, Sections 11B-703.4.1 and 11B-703.4.2.) See Figure 20.



Figure 20: Mounting height for Braille and Raised Characters.

A voter shall be able to approach the sign without encountering protruding objects or standing/wheeling within the swing of a door. Signs containing tactile characters shall be located so that a clear floor space of 18 inches by 18 inches minimum, centered on the tactile characters, must be provided beyond the arc of the door swing between the closed position and 45 degree open position. (CCR, Section 11B-703.4.2.) See Figure 21.

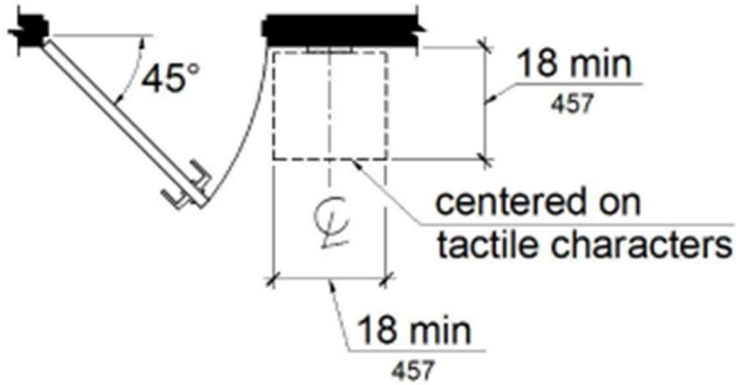


Figure 21: Diagram showing the location of tactile signs at doors.

Additional ways of accommodation provided in the voting area may include assigning a poll worker the duty of providing wayfinding throughout the day and during emergencies.