

PAUL D. PATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE CAPITOL  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

January 6, 2018

National Association of Secretaries of State  
444 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear NASS Awards Committee Members:

After extensive deliberation with my staff, I have decided to submit our "**Helping Veterans and Iowans with Disabilities Vote**" project for the 2018 NASS IDEAS award. I believe this is the most important, challenging, and rewarding initiative we have undertaken during all my time as Iowa Secretary of State.

New components introduced in 2017 include equipping tablet computers with the ADA Checklist App and distributing them to all 99 county auditors, creating a large print voter registration form to assist Iowans with low vision, partnering with Hy-Vee grocery store chain to promote voting among veterans, and helping National Guard troops request absentee ballots prior to overseas deployments. As commissioners of elections, we are tasked with making elections clean, fair and accessible. Although great strides have been made to ensure citizens with disabilities have access to the ballot box, there is more that can be done. An estimated 300,000 Iowans have a disability, and I want every single one of them to be a voter.

Participation, service and integrity are the three cornerstones that my office operates under. Everything we do keeps those guiding principles in mind. The "**Helping Veterans and Iowans with Disabilities Vote**" initiative greatly incorporates all three guiding principles into the important task of making it easier for citizens with disabilities to vote. My staff has been fully vested in this project for three years and we are very proud of the purpose, the effort, and the results.

This initiative can be implemented in every state. "**Helping Veterans and Iowans with Disabilities Vote**" was paid for in part by a federal grant. However, even if no federal funding is available, there are certainly portions of our program that can be utilized everywhere. I hope all our NASS colleagues will find this information useful.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Pate".

Paul D. Pate  
Iowa Secretary of State

# NASS IDEAS Award Application – 2018

## State of Iowa



**State Office:** Iowa Secretary of State Paul D. Pate

**Contact:** Kevin Hall, Communications Director; (515)725-2942, [Kevin.Hall@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:Kevin.Hall@sos.iowa.gov)

**Title of Program:** Helping Veterans and Iowans with Disabilities Vote

**Project lead:** Michael Ross, Deputy Secretary of State, and Kevin Hall, Communications Director

**Description of the program:** Secretary Pate launched an unprecedented effort to help military veterans and Iowans with disabilities vote. Working with corporate partners like Hy-Vee, coordinating with military divisions like the Iowa National Guard, utilizing videos and social media, revamping the Secretary of State's website, hiring an outreach coordinator, conducting training sessions and workshops, implementing new administrative rules, distributing brochures and DVDs, supplying counties with new technologies and tools, partnering with stakeholder groups for voter registration drives, and numerous other avenues, the Secretary of State's Office continues to reach out to Iowans all over the state. The goal is to make sure Iowans with disabilities, and those that serve them, are aware of the resources available to help them participate in elections, and to ensure our military veterans and active duty personnel have the tools they need to cast a ballot. It is also a primary goal to ensure every polling place in the state is accessible for Iowans with disabilities, and poll workers are well-informed and equipped with the proper tools to assist voters.

**Subject area of nomination:** Elections

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### HISTORY

One of the top priorities for Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is for every eligible Iowan to participate in the state's elections. That effort requires education and encouragement, showing voters with disabilities that the process is simple and can be done without ever leaving their home. It also requires working with election officials across the state to ensure polling places are accessible and poll workers are trained on how to utilize accessible voting equipment. An estimated 300,000 Iowans of voting age have some form of disability and studies show that people with disabilities are among the least likely to vote. Secretary Pate made it top priority to help that community participate in Iowa's election process.

#### **January 2015: The Effort Launches**

Upon returning to the Secretary of State's Office in January 2015, Secretary Pate implemented many new processes to enhance and promote ballot accessibility for Iowans with disabilities, including:

- Conducting extensive training with every state agency regarding registering voters.
- Implementing administrative rules requiring mandated reporting of voter registration by each state agency.
- Reviewing accessibility aids for non-sighted voters, including an assessment of braille materials for use at the polling place and ensuring they're available at all 1,681 precincts.
- Updating the voter registration form to format it as a fillable form and make voter registration materials screen reader-friendly.
- Training sight-impaired Iowans on using accessible voting equipment, in partnership with the Iowa Council of the United Blind.
- Extensive training sessions for Iowans with disabilities in partnership Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Many Iowans with disabilities are also military veterans. Secretary Pate's campaign took a three-pronged approach:

1. Target the general population of Iowans with disabilities.
2. Target those who bravely served or are serving our country in the military.
3. Help the 99 county auditors and 10,000 precinct election officials in the state that administer elections remove any potential barriers to the ballot box.

When Secretary Pate's Office [launched online voter registration](#) in January 2016, we worked with the Iowa Department of Transportation to ensure the system complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for webpage function and design. To assure the continued best access for persons with disabilities, an ADA compliance consultant was contracted to review the online registration system and recommend appropriate adjustments as needed.

Making sure Iowa's elections are accessible for voters with disabilities means educating county auditors and precinct election officials about the need for accessibility. These requirements include ensuring the buildings are accessible for people with disabilities, providing accessible voting equipment and ensuring poll workers are knowledgeable about their services they need to provide to voters who might need help casting their ballot.

#### **Steps taken to target all Iowans with disabilities include:**

- [Producing nine videos about accessible voting equipment](#) and polling locations, and distributing these to all 99 county auditors, as well as agencies that assist Iowans with disabilities. Four of the

videos demonstrate how to set up and operate accessible voting equipment. These were designed for county auditors and precinct election officials. Four more of the videos are designed for voters who need to use the equipment. The final one, "[Election Day in Iowa](#)", is a general instructional video about what to expect on Election Day for both voters and poll workers. DVDs containing the video were distributed across Iowa.

- Creating a large print voter registration form to [assist Iowans with low vision](#) in registering to vote.
- Producing a 30-second Public Service Announcement that ran on TV and statewide radio encouraging Iowans with disabilities to vote and providing pertinent information.
- Releasing a bipartisan video of state officials detailing the resources available to Iowans with disabilities to help them vote.
- Producing and distributing dozens of DVDs with videos that explain the voting process for poll workers and Iowans with disabilities.
- Revamping the Secretary of State's website, [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities), to provide a one-stop shop to help Iowans with disabilities vote. On this page, Iowans can register to vote online, download an absentee ballot request form, and learn about curbside voting and other assistance you can receive at your polling site. The webpage also includes several videos that detail how to register to vote, what to expect at your polling site, and how to use voting machines specially designed for people with disabilities.
- Creating and distributing 10,000 brochures statewide, which detail the many resources available for Iowans with disabilities [to help them vote](#). The brochures include information like voting with assistance, curbside voting, and answering frequently asked questions. The brochures were provided to government agencies, entities that work with Iowans who have disabilities, and are available in digital form as well on the Iowa Secretary of State's website.
- Hiring a voter outreach coordinator to travel the state, visiting with organizations that work with Iowans with disabilities, to help promote the voting resources available to them.
- Partnering with the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council to conduct workshops in 21 counties to help Iowans with disabilities vote.

**Steps taken to specifically target Iowa's military veterans include:**

- Assisting Iowa National Guard members in [requesting absentee ballots prior to their overseas deployments](#) to the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, including Iraq and Afghanistan. During briefings held just prior to deployment in October 2017, the Secretary of State's Office explained the absentee ballot process for overseas soldiers and distributed ballot request forms to the entire 248<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion.
- Passing legislation making it easier for overseas military to vote. Secretary Pate introduced a bill that added an extra 30 days to the time for Iowans serving or visiting overseas to request, receive and return special absentee ballots. The bill was signed into law and extended the time period from 90 days to 120 days prior to an election.
- Partnering with Hy-Vee grocery store chain to distribute 100,000 "Honor a Veteran with Your Vote" postcards in November 2017. Hy-Vee serves free Veterans Day breakfasts each year to all veterans and active-duty military members. The cards include a strong encouragement to participate in elections in honor of those that served our country and protecting our freedoms like the right to vote.
- Creating and distributing 10,000 brochures statewide, [aimed specifically at military veterans](#), which detail the many resources available for Iowans with disabilities to help them vote. The brochures include information like voting with assistance, curbside voting, and answering frequently asked questions. The brochures were provided to government agencies, entities that work with Iowans who have disabilities, and are available in digital form as well on the Iowa Secretary of State's website.

- Visiting with veterans-affiliated groups like American Legions, VFW's, Veterans Affairs departments, resource fairs, and many more to spread the word about resources available to help veterans, especially those with disabilities, vote.
- Creating a "We've Got Your Back" Facebook Ad and Google Ad campaign aimed specifically at Iowa military veterans to encourage voting and educate them about resources available to help them vote.
- Producing a bipartisan video with Iowa officials that served in the military, aimed specifically at informing veterans about the resources available to them for voting.
- Attending multiple [Joining Community Forces](#) meetings to inform the military community about resources available to help veterans vote.
- Coordinating with the Iowa National Guard to have soldiers deployed in Afghanistan send videos encouraging veterans and all Iowans to vote.

**Steps taken to specifically target county auditors and poll workers include:**

- Purchasing Acer Tablets for all 99 county auditors, equipped with the ADA Checklist Program to assist every Iowa county with their ADA review of polling places. This ensures that all 1,681 Iowa precincts are accessible. [Tablets were distributed in April of 2017](#) and a seminar was conducted to explain how to utilize them.
- As mentioned earlier, [producing nine videos about accessible voting equipment](#) and polling locations, and distributing these to all 99 county auditors, as well as agencies that assist Iowans with disabilities. Four of the videos demonstrate how to set up and operate accessible voting equipment. These were designed for county auditors and precinct election officials. Four more of the videos are designed for voters who need to use the equipment. The final one, "[Election Day in Iowa](#)", is a general instructional video about what to expect on Election Day for both voters and poll workers.
- Our voter outreach coordinator visited county auditors' offices in each of the 45 counties she visited to deliver brochures, discuss procedures for aiding Iowa voters with disabilities, and provide other pertinent information.
- Assisting county auditors with training poll workers on ensuring accessible voting locations and equipment.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**Fewer Iowans with disabilities vote compared to general population**

An estimated 300,000 Iowans have a disability. That equals almost 10% of the state's population. Unfortunately, for many Iowans, their disability makes it more difficult to participate in elections. This population deserves to have its voice heard and as the state's commissioner of elections, Secretary Pate wanted all 300,000 of these voters know there are resources available to make voting a simple process.

[An analysis of the 2012 general election](#) shows that 63.9% of Iowans with disabilities voted that year, while 70.2% of Iowans without disabilities participated. That is a 6.3% disparity. These statistics show an estimated 191,700 eligible Iowans with disabilities did not cast a ballot in 2012.

Disabilities go beyond physical ailments. There are mental disorders and anxieties such as autism, agoraphobia, and PTSD which could deter a person from entering a polling place. These are often undiagnosed. That is why we made a concerted effort to [promote curbside voting](#) for people with disabilities.

**Tens of thousands of disabled veterans in Iowa**

While targeting all Iowans with disabilities to help them vote, Secretary Pate also wanted to specifically reach out to military veterans that might also be suffering from a disability. Many of them fought to defend our freedoms and our right to vote, so we should do everything possible to help them cast a ballot.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs informed the Secretary of State's Office that there are 37,221 veterans in Iowa receiving disability compensation. This means that the veteran filed a claim for disability compensation and was found to have one or more service-connected disabilities. Additionally, more than 18,000 Iowa National Guard soldiers and airmen have served on active duty in support of combat and contingency operations since September 11, 2001. Many of them returned to Iowa with a service-related disability.

Statistics from [the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) show that 11-20% of those veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars suffer from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). That means, between 1,980-3,600 of those Iowa soldiers could be suffering from a disability that might make entering a polling place extremely difficult. PTSD and similar anxiety-related disorders go undiagnosed, so many of these veterans are suffering from a disability, but might not be among those receiving disability compensation.

Secretary Pate wanted to help those who bravely defended our freedoms and our right to vote to be able to cast a ballot themselves and know about all the resources available to them. Military veterans often feel their service and sacrifices are not appreciated. This campaign was one way to show them "we've got your back".

## **IMPACT/RESULTS**

### **What They're Saying**

**Col. Greg Hapgood**, director of public affairs for Iowa National Guard: *"The Iowa National Guard greatly appreciates the assistance from Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate and his team to ensure our deploying men and women have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote while serving thousands of miles away from home during the 2017 election season. Through the Iowa Secretary of State's efforts, Iowa service members can cast their ballot while defending our freedoms, regardless how far away from home their service takes them."*

**Denise Merrill**, Connecticut Secretary of State and past president of NASS: *"Secretary Pate's initiative aims to help two communities of underserved voters and represents a very unique approach that other states can learn from. Secretary Pate's (initiative) really stood out as a vital program that could be a model for the rest of the nation."*

**Steve Crew**, chair of Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council: *"I would like to acknowledge the Secretary of State's Office support and willingness to partner with our Council to improve voting access to Iowans with disabilities. In addition, I also want to thank them for their commitment to ensure that the spirit of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is alive and well in the State of Iowa."*

**Rik Shannon**, public policy manager, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council: *"The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to partner with Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate to conduct workshops around the state to assist voters with disabilities to remove any remaining barriers to their full participation in the 2016 election. These workshops provide Iowans with disabilities with an opportunity to ask questions and to learn about the recent changes that make it possible for all voters, regardless of ability, to cast their ballot and have their voice heard."*

**Lisa Naslund**, co-founder and director for Operation Engage America, a group that helps veterans deal with PTSD and traumatic brain injury: *"A few weeks ago when I learned from Secretary Pate that someone with these type of disabilities and other mental health issues could feel comfortable to vote from their vehicle and never have to get out of their comfort zone, I was thrilled to be able to share this knowledge with other military members living with these issues."*

**Mindy Schaefer**, past president of Iowa State Association of County Auditors and mother of an Iowan with a disability: *“I applaud Secretary Pate’s efforts to educate the public in voter accessibility and the various ways that they can cast their ballots. It is important that every voter, regardless of disabilities, has the opportunity to vote in a safe, secure and easily accessible way.”*

### **30-Year Veteran becomes First-Time Voter**

Following participation in one of the workshops conducted by Secretary of State and Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council, attendee Frank Delaney [voted for the first time in his life](#). This is significant because Mr. Delaney is in his 60’s and spent 30 years serving in the U.S. Army, defending our freedoms and our right to vote. Frank’s story is one small example of the impact this program made on Iowans.

### **Voting with Disabilities Statistics and Feedback**

The percentage of Iowans with disabilities who participated in the 2016 elections compared to the general population increased compared to 2012. The disparity between those that did not participate, compared to the general population, shrunk from 6.3% in 2012 to 5.7% in 2016. That is a very positive trend and one we plan to build upon in 2018.

A post-election survey conducted by Disability Rights Iowa showed significant progress was made in regards to Iowa’s accessibility at the polls for voters with disabilities. Less than 10 percent of voters with disabilities gave negative responses regarding accessible space at their polling location. Less than 15 percent responded unfavorably in regards to availability of accessible machines. The Secretary of State’s goal is for these numbers to be zero, and the work continues toward that objective.

The National Federation for the Blind conducted a post-Election Day survey showing 85 percent of respondents reported they were able to vote privately and independently on an accessible voting machine. This result compared to 51 percent in 2008 and 74 percent in 2014. This shows that nationally we are moving in the right direction and we believe data will show Iowa is on pace or above the national level. We will continue to work to bring this number to 100 percent.

### **Reaching More than One Million Voters with Sponsored Public Service Announcements**

The [sponsored PSA](#) that ran on two Des Moines television stations in October 2016 reached an audience of 1,074,000 Iowans. These were geared specifically to reach older audience segments, which are more likely to consist of people with disabilities. An audio version of the same PSA ran on statewide radio, reaching more than 242,000 listeners at least once, with 831,000 total impressions.

### **Reaching Tens of Thousands of Iowans with Disabilities through Social Media Ads**

Using Facebook Ads and Google Ads, the Secretary of State’s Office targeted Iowans with disabilities and Iowa veterans to provide information on voting resources available to them. One Facebook Ad geared toward veterans with disabilities reached more than 81,000 Iowans, with almost 4,000 link clicks that directed them to [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities). Other sponsored Facebook Ads reached tens of thousands of Iowans, geared specifically to those most likely to have a disability.

Overall, we believe this effort was crucial in helping countless Iowans register to vote and participate in the November 2016 campaign, and in making the process easier for them. It is vital to inform them of the resources available, as well as educate county auditors and precinct workers on their responsibilities in helping Iowans with disabilities vote.

Secretary Pate’s ultimate goal is for every eligible Iowan to register to vote and cast a ballot. This continuing effort is a very positive step in that direction, by aiding 300,000 Iowans with disabilities in the voting process. Voting is a fundamental right and privilege for every Iowan. Helping voters with disabilities

through the process is one of the highest callings for our office and it's an initiative we are extremely proud to conduct.

## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

### *NEWS CLIPS*

U.S. EAC: [Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate's Cutting Edge Approach to Ensuring Polling Place Accessibility](#)  
ElectionLine: [A tablet for every county; Iowa program provides tablets and accessibility app to all auditors](#)  
Government Technology: [Iowa Secretary of State Equips All Counties with Tablets to Assist in ADA Compliance](#)  
KCRG-TV: [County auditors to get tablets to check for accessible polling places](#)  
ABC 5: [Making polling places more accessible](#)  
Ottumwa Courier: [State launches app for ADA compliance](#)  
Waverly Democrat: [Counties to receive tablets to survey polling places for APA compliance](#)  
Daily Iowegian: [State launches ADA voting app](#)  
Cedar Rapids Gazette: [Registration drive set for voters with disabilities](#)  
Clinton Herald: [Secretary of State helps National Guard members request absentee ballots](#)  
KCRG-TV: [New large print Iowa voter registration form](#)  
ID Action: [Large Print Voter Registration Form Available](#)  
KCIM Radio: [Secretary of State Introduces Voter Registration Forms for Sight Impaired Iowans](#)  
Dickinson County News: [Voter registration forms in larger print](#)  
KCRG-TV: [Voting easier for Iowa's Military Members Overseas](#)  
Voice of Muscatine: [Easier to vote while deployed](#)  
WHO-TV: [Iowa Veterans, Voters with Disabilities Targeted by Get Out the Vote Campaign](#)  
KIMT-TV: [Veterans and voting](#)  
KGAN-TV: [New report shows growing number of eligible voters with disabilities](#)  
Clinton Herald: [Voting options offered](#)  
Quad City Times: [Workshop for Iowa voters with disabilities](#)  
Newton Daily News: [Secretary of State's Office conducts workshop in Jasper County](#)  
Tama News-Herald: [Aid for veterans and Iowans with disabilities to vote launched](#)  
Nevada Journal: [Secretary of State's Office conducts workshop in Story County](#)  
Marshalltown Times-Republican: [Pate launches new voting initiative](#)  
Dallas County News: [Voting workshop to help veterans and Iowans with disabilities in Adel](#)  
Estherville Daily News: [Resources available for voters with disabilities](#)  
Daily Iowegian: [Pate initiative helps military veterans, Iowans with disabilities](#)  
Guthrie Center Times: [Pate launches new initiative to help veterans & Iowans with disabilities](#)  
Osceola Sentinel-Tribune: [Pate launches new initiative to help veterans, Iowans with disabilities](#)  
Schaller Herald: [New initiative to help military veterans and Iowans with disabilities vote](#)  
Iowa Public Radio: [Improved Access for Voters with Disabilities](#)  
Radio Iowa: [Secretary of State videos focus on helping people with disabilities vote](#)  
KOEL Radio: [Iowa's Statewide Initiative to Help Veterans & the Disabled Vote](#)

### *VIDEO LINKS*

They Defended Your Right to Vote: <https://youtu.be/78sSdhBIWQA>  
Special message to Iowans with disabilities and their families: <https://youtu.be/Lt1KNUUZ6ig>  
Special message to military veterans and their families: <https://youtu.be/bkd4Abu3tqc>  
Election Day in Iowa: <https://youtu.be/AKqBcBQvdZw>  
Helping Veterans and Iowans with Disabilities Vote: <https://youtu.be/ShN5Zm7Cc4o>  
OVI voter instructions: <https://youtu.be/2GNH575QM8M>  
OVI precinct worker instructions: <https://youtu.be/BNU5Yydm0ng>  
ImageCast voter instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jvfl74OuD0>  
ImageCast precinct worker instructions: <https://youtu.be/fVRroo0vQcs>  
AutoMARK voter instructions: <https://youtu.be/sX1GBVUtme4>

AutoMARK precinct worker instructions: <https://youtu.be/D2ovy-PC7Is>  
 Express Vote voter instructions: [https://youtu.be/f9ZpPz\\_NqIU](https://youtu.be/f9ZpPz_NqIU)  
 Express Vote precinct worker instructions: <https://youtu.be/h0Us6xUkjJw>  
 National Guard soldier vote encouragement, Collier: <https://youtu.be/dEWtp1ehGww>  
 National Guard soldier vote encouragement, Craig: [https://youtu.be/Tm6\\_i8ynez0](https://youtu.be/Tm6_i8ynez0)  
 National Guard soldier vote encouragement, Mullins: <https://youtu.be/t7yMWfkhOrE>  
 30-Second Public Service Announcement: <https://youtu.be/96TQwdf7lxo>

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TV SPOT REACH**

**General Summary ( DMA P18+ D.RTG )**

Name	Spots	Cost	Grps	Imp(000)	CPP	Reach	Freq
WHO	43	\$5,725.00	103.7	822.5	\$55.21	48.2	2.2
WOI	32	\$2,950.00	31.5	252.3	\$93.65	13.6	2.3
DES MOINES-AMES	75	\$8,675.00	135.2	1074.8	\$64.16	55.2	2.4

**Station Summary ( DMA P18+ D.RTG )**

Station	Spots	Cost	Grps	Imp(000)	CPP	Reach	Freq
WHO	43	\$5,725.00	103.7	822.5	\$55.21	48.2	2.2
WOI	32	\$2,950.00	31.5	252.3	\$93.65	13.6	2.3
Total (DMA P18+)	75	\$8,675.00	135.2	1074.8	\$64.16	55.2	2.4

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT RADIO SPOT REACH**

Coverage	Schedule	Total Local Messages	Total Number of Weeks	Reduced Rate Value	Investment \$4,500
Radio Iowa, 65 stations	30 Spots	1,950	Two	\$5,220	\$2.31 average cost per stations
CAMPAIGN TOTAL LISTENERSHIP IMPACT: NIELSEN RESEARCH SP16 IOWANS 18+					
REACH	Number of unique people who hear your message each airing				242,700
FREQUENCY	Number of times each person hears your message on average				3.4
GROSS IMPRESSIONS	Number of different times your message is heard during campaign				831,00

**HY-VEE "HONOR A VETERAN WITH YOUR VOTE" PARTNERSHIP**

**HONOR A VETERAN**



The Honor a Veteran program recognizes the sacrifices that veterans have made throughout history to protect our freedoms and our sacred right to vote. Please Honor a Veteran by leaving a message on this card today. We will send you an Honor a Veteran pin to wear to show your support. If the veteran you're honoring is living, we will send him/her one as well.

To receive your pin, please mail in this response card or visit the Iowa Secretary of State's website or Facebook at:

[www.SOS.IOWA.GOV/VETERANS](http://www.SOS.IOWA.GOV/VETERANS) or  
[Facebook.com/HONORAVETERAN](https://www.facebook.com/HONORAVETERAN)





Paul D. Pate  
Iowa Secretary of State

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**PAUL D. PATE**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
 Honor A Veteran  
 State Capitol  
 Des Moines, IA 50319



Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate  
 Published by Kevin Hall (1)  
 Page Liked · November 11, 2017 ·

Honored to break bread this morning with a World War II Navy vet who is turning 100 in January, as well as Vietnam and Korean War veterans at the Crossroads @hyvee in Waterloo. We're partnering with Hy-Vee to distribute 100,000 #HonorAVet postcards this #VeteransDay weekend.

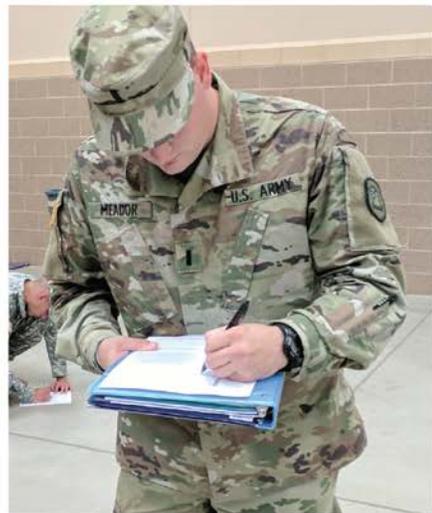
Tag Photo · Add Location · Edit

Like · Comment · Share

Hana Aleksander, Brendon Snell and 10 others

Write a comment...

HELPING NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS BEFORE DEPLOYMENT



BROCHURES

Two different brochures were produced. One is entitled “Voting in Iowa, Individuals with Disabilities”, with the subtext: “What You Need to Know”.

Voting in Iowa, Individuals with Disabilities

**Paul D. Pate**  
Iowa Secretary of State  
SERVICE • PARTICIPATION • INTEGRITY

**VOTING IN IOWA**  
Individuals with Disabilities

Secretary of State  
Election Office  
First Floor  
Lucas Building  
321 E. 12th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Voter Hotline:  
1-888-505-VOTE  
1-888-747-6463

www.sos.iowa.gov

I'm proud that Iowa is one of the nation's leaders in voting accessibility. My office will continue to strive to increase participation while maintaining the integrity of the vote. Hundreds of thousands of brave Americans fought to defend our freedoms and the right to choose our form of government. There is not a higher honor we can give them than fulfilling our civic duty by voting.

*Paul D. Pate*  
Paul D. Pate  
Iowa Secretary of State

**VOTING WITH ASSISTANCE IN IOWA**  
Voting at the polls can present a unique set of challenges to people with disabilities. It is the intent of federal law to ensure that voters with disabilities are fully able to exercise their voting rights at the polls. If you or a family member need special assistance to vote, you have the right to have an accessible voting location, assistance to vote and accessible voting equipment. Inside, you will find more information on ways you or a family member that needs assistance can vote.

If you have more specific questions or need further assistance in voting, please call your county auditor or the Secretary of State office at 1-888-505-VOTE 1-888-747-6463.

**Election Day Registration**

**Proof of ID:**  
Driver's License  
US Passport  
US Military ID  
ID Card issued by employer  
Student ID issued by Iowa High School or College

**Proof of Residence:**  
If your driver's license doesn't list your current address:  
Rental Lease  
Utility Bill  
Bank Statement  
Paycheck  
Government Check  
Other Government Document

**WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?**

- County auditor's office.
- Iowa Department of Motor Vehicles office or treasurers' offices that issue driver's licenses.
- Print out a registration form from our website. Fill it out and mail it to your county auditor. [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)
- Register online at [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)
- State agencies that provide services to Iowans including, but not limited to Human Services, Vocational/Rehabilitation, WIC and Department of the Blind.

You can register to vote on Election Day. You must prove both who you are and where you live. Make sure to bring current identification with you to expedite the process.

More details:  
[sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

**I CAN'T LEAVE MY HOME. CAN I STILL VOTE? YES!**  
You may request an absentee ballot by printing a request form from our website: [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)  
Fill out the request form, sign it, then mail to your county auditor. An absentee ballot will then be mailed to you. After you have filled out your absentee ballot, mail it back to your county auditor. To find your auditor visit our website: [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

**Early Voting**  
Beginning 42 days before an election, you may vote in person at your county auditor's office. This might be helpful if you need a little extra time and even more personalized assistance. Some counties allow you to vote outside voting locations. Contact your county auditor to find out if a satellite voting location is available in your area.

Iowa Polls are open from 7 am - 9 pm on Election Day.

To watch a demonstration video of voter assist terminal at our website: [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

**I NEED HELP FILLING OUT MY BALLOT AT THE POLLS. CAN SOMEONE HELP ME? YES!**

- You may request assistance for marking or casting a ballot. Any voter may declare upon oath that the voter is blind, cannot read the English language, or is, by reason of any physical disability, unable to cast a vote without assistance.
- Voters may choose any person to assist them, except their employer, employer's agent or an officer/agent of their union. Voters may also request assistance from a precinct election official. Two precinct officials, one from each political party, may assist. If a person other than the precinct official assists the voter, the person assisting the voter must sign the Affidavit of Voter Requesting Assistance.
- Each polling place has a voter assist terminal. This device is available for any voter. To mark their ballots, voters use features on the machine such as a touch screen, an audio component, and/or a sip and puff element to select their candidates. The device will then mark their ballot according to their selections.

**I AM UNABLE TO LEAVE MY CAR AT THE POLLS. CAN SOMEONE BRING A BALLOT TO MY CAR? YES!**

If you are unable to enter the building where the polling place is located because of a disability, two precinct election officials, one from each political party, will take a ballot and election supplies outside to the voter. The voter may then mark the ballot in the voter's vehicle. The voter must sign the Affidavit of Voter Requesting Assistance. It is not required, but would be helpful to contact the county auditor's office, to let them know that you will be voting curbside.

**I HAVE A CONSERVATOR OR GUARDIAN. CAN I STILL VOTE? YES!**

You can still vote, unless a judge has specifically said in a court ruling that you may not vote.



The other brochure produced by the Iowa Secretary of State's Office is entitled "Voting in Iowa, Veterans with Disabilities", with the subtext: "You Had Our Back and Defended Our Right to Vote! Now it's Our Turn. We Have Your Back When It Comes to Voting."

## Voting in Iowa, Veterans with Disabilities

**Paul D. Pate**  
Iowa Secretary of State  
SERVICE • PARTICIPATION • INTEGRITY

**VOTING IN IOWA**  
Veterans with Disabilities

**YOU HAD OUR BACK AND DEFENDED OUR RIGHT TO VOTE!**

**NOW IT'S OUR TURN.**  
We have your back when it comes to voting.

**#GOTYOURBACK/OTE**

Secretary of State  
Election Office  
First Floor,  
Lodge Building  
321 E 12th St  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Voter Hotline:  
1-888-502-VOTE  
1-888-747-4182

www.sos.iowa.gov

I respect and appreciate the men and women who have served our country honorably. You have been on the front lines protecting our freedoms and particularly our right to vote. Thank you.

**You had our back and defended our right to VOTE!**

Now it's our turn. We have your back when it comes to voting. I'm proud that Iowa is one of the nation's leaders in voting accessibility, and my office will continue to strive to increase participation while maintaining the integrity of the vote.

*Paul D. Pate*  
Paul D. Pate  
Iowa Secretary of State

**VOTING WITH ASSISTANCE IN IOWA**

Voting at the polls can present a unique set of challenges to people with disabilities. It is the intent of federal law to ensure that voters with disabilities are fully able to exercise their voting rights at the polls.

If you or a family member need special assistance to vote, you have the right to have an accessible voting location, assistance to vote and accessible voting equipment.

Inside, you will find more information on ways you or a family member who needs assistance can vote.

If you have more specific questions or need further assistance in voting, please call your county auditor or the Secretary of State office at 1-888-502-VOTE 1-888-747-4182.

**Election Day Registration**

**Proof of ID:**  
Driver's license  
US Passport  
US Military ID Card issued by employer  
Student ID issued by Iowa High School or College

**Proof of Residence:**  
If your driver's license doesn't list your current address:  
Residential Lease  
Utility Bill  
Bank Statement  
Payroll Stub  
Government Check  
Other Government Document

**WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?**

- County auditor's office.
- Iowa Department of Motor Vehicles office or treasurer's offices that issue driver's licenses.
- Print out a registration form from our website. Fill it out and mail to your county auditor [www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)
- Register online at [www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)
- State agencies that provide services to Iowans including, but not limited to Human Services, Vocational/Rehabilitation, WIC and Department of the Blind.

You can register to vote on Election Day. You must prove both who you are and where you live. Make sure to bring current identification with you to expedite the process.

More details: [www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

**I CAN'T LEAVE MY HOME. CAN I STILL VOTE?**

**YES!**

You may request an absentee ballot by printing a request form from our website: [www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

Fill out the request form, sign it, then mail to your county auditor. An absentee ballot will then be mailed to you. After you have filled out your absentee ballot, mail it back to your county auditor.

To find your auditor visit our website: [www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/disabilities)

**Early Voting**

Beginning 42 days before an election, you may vote in person at your county auditor's office. This might be helpful if you need a little extra time and even more personalized assistance.

Some counties allow you to use satellite voting locations. Contact your county auditor to find out if a satellite voting location is available in your area.

Iowa Polls are open from 7 am - 9 pm on Election Day

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**YES!**

You can still vote, unless a judge has specifically said in a court ruling that you may not vote.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Help us recognize and celebrate the sacrifices that veterans have made throughout history to protect our freedoms and our sacred right to vote. Please Honor a Veteran by submitting a testimonial today. We will post your tribute on our website and Facebook page. We will also send you an Honor a Veteran pin for you to wear to show your support.

To honor a veteran:  
[www.sos.iowa.gov/honoraveteran](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/honoraveteran)  
OR  
Visit us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/HonorAVeteran](https://www.facebook.com/HonorAVeteran)

Secretary of State  
Election Office  
First Floor,  
Lodge Building  
321 E. 12th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Voter Hotline:  
1-888-502-VOTE  
1-888-747-4182

www.sos.iowa.gov

PICTURES AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FROM VOTER OUTREACH WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

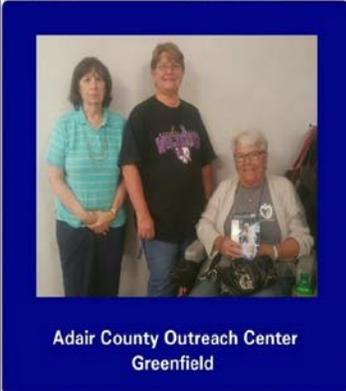


**lowasospaulpate**  
Honey Creek Resort, Lake Rathbun

successful\_disabled\_mom, a38ems, sebastian\_july, tinaaiowa, idaction, jim\_roberts and disabilitysupportprogram like this

lowasospaulpate Spreading the word about voting with disabilities at the ID ACTION - Make Your Mark Conference. #MyVoteMatters #BeAVoter #disability #disabled #vote #Voter #Voting #elections #disabilities

♡ Add a comment... ⋮



**lowasospaulpate**

tinaaiowa likes this 13w

lowasospaulpate Continuing our outreach throughout the state, my staff visited with staff and volunteers at Adair County Outreach Center about voting with disabilities. #BeAVoter #IowaSecretaryofState

♡ Add a comment... ⋮



**lowasospaulpate**

successful\_disabled\_mom, tinaaiowa, teetaientinc, disabilitysupportprogram, uphold\_global and a38ems like this

lowasospaulpate Continuing outreach to voters with disabilities, my staff were able to visit with Wally and Amy from Support Services of South Central Iowa. #BeAVoter #disability #disabilities #Vote #Voting #accessibility

♡ Add a comment... ⋮



**lowasospaulpate**  
Treyvor Community Center

patriot\_apparel, Lam\_veteran, usarmyfl, naomicorrie, sillyrepublicans, docspartanproducts and tinaaiowa like this

lowasospaulpate SOS staff on-hand to provide voting resources and Honor a Veteran cards at @repdavinyoung's Veterans Fair in Treyvor today. #HonorAVeteran #honoravet #GotYourBack #vet #Veteran #Veterans #Vote

♡ Add a comment... ⋮



**lowasospaulpate**

travellingnobes, flipwithskip, successful\_disabled\_mom, tinaaiowa, teetaientinc, naomicorrie, disabilitysupportprogram and uphold\_global like this

lowasospaulpate My staff continued outreach to veterans & Iowans with disabilities at the Veterans of Foreign Wars dinner in Council Bluffs. We cannot thank them enough for defending our freedoms & right to vote. #GotYourBack #HonorAVeteran #honoravet #wv #Veteran #Veterans #disability #disabilities

♡ Add a comment... ⋮



**lowasospaulpate**  
Southern Iowa Resources

tinaaiowa likes this 15w

lowasospaulpate Continuing our outreach across the state to help Iowans with disabilities vote, my staff visited with Innovative Industries and Southern Iowa Resources for Families. Thank you for helping make our elections accessible to all eligible Iowans! #BeAVoter

♡ Add a comment... ⋮

## FACEBOOK AD CAMPAIGN

Secretary Pate utilized Facebook and Facebook Ads to target Iowans who are more likely to suffer from a disability, encouraging them to vote and visit the 'Disabilities' page on the Secretary of State's website, <https://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities>.

[If you have a disability and need helping voting...](#)

[A special message to military veterans...](#)

[Working hard to help Iowans with disabilities vote...](#)

**Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate** ✓  
Published by Kevin Hall [?] · October 19 · 🌐

If you have a disability and need helping voting, there are resources available to you. Visit [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities](https://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities). Make your voice heard. #BeAVoter



6,120 people reached [View Results](#)

4.1K Views

Like Comment Share

Ross Wood, Joe Keever and 29 others Top Comments

32 shares 3 Comments

**Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate** ✓ [Like Page](#)

Written by Maggie Meyer [?] · September 29 · 🌐

VETERANS: We've got your back when it comes to voting. Click to [LEARN MORE](#).



Help a Disabled Vet Vote

I'm proud that Iowa is one of the nation's leaders in voting accessibility. My office will continue to strive to increase participation while maintaining the integrity of the vote. Hundreds of thousands of brave Americans fought to defend our freedoms and the...

SOS.IOWA.GOV [Learn More](#)

81,325 people reached

Like Comment Share

Perla Alarcon-Flory, Ray Niewoehner and 373 others Top Comments

102 shares 12 Comments

**Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate** ✓  
Published by Kevin Hall [?] · November 3, 2016 · 🌐

A special message to military veterans. You had our back and defended our freedoms. Now, when it comes to voting, we've got your back. #HonorAVet #GotYourBack



8,284 people reached [View Results](#)

4.3K Views

Like Comment Share

Kyle W. Obrecht, Thane Garton and 49 others Top Comments

**Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate** ✓  
Published by Kevin Hall [?] · October 7, 2016 · 🌐

My office works hard to help Iowans with disabilities vote. Last week we had a great talk with some community leaders on disability rights. Big thanks to Operation Engage America, Disability Rights Iowa, Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) and many other organizations across America who have joined our effort to get all voters to the polls on Election Day!



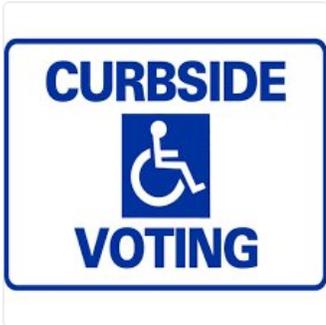
4,010 people reached [View Results](#)

2.2K Views

OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

 **Iowa Sec. of State** @IowaSOS · 8 Nov 2016

If you have trouble getting out of your car or entering your polling site, curbside voting is available: [sos.iowa.gov/disabilities.h...](http://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities.h...) #BeAVoter



👤 6 ❤️ 1 📊 ⋮

 **Iowa Sec. of State** @IowaSOS · 29 Oct 2016

Enjoyed meeting with this delegation of Brazilians in Iowa City that attended our workshop for #veterans & Iowans with #disabilities.



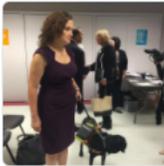
IVLP and FHI 360

👤 1 ❤️ 3 📊 ⋮

 You Retweeted

 **Jay Byers** @jaybyers · 26 Sep 2016

Improved Access for #Iowa #Voters with #Disabilities. Nice work @IowaSOS!



**Improved Access for Voters with Disabilities**  
Iowa's Secretary of State is reminding voters with disabilities there are methods in place to help them cast ballots. This applies to military veterans  
[iowapublicradio.org](http://iowapublicradio.org)

👤 1 ❤️ 2 📊 ⋮



Iowa Sec. of State @IowaSOS · 26 Sep 2016

Very proud of this bipartisan video to help Iowans with disabilities #vote. #BeAVoter [youtu.be/Lt1KNUUZ6ig](https://youtu.be/Lt1KNUUZ6ig)



Retweets: 5, Likes: 3



Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action)

October 26, 2016 · Public

A great resource from Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate. An instructional video for Iowans with disabilities who will need to use the OVI voting machine this upcoming election. All polling places are accessible spaces in Iowa and every polling place will have an accessible voting machine.

Un gran recurso del Secretario de Estado Paul Pate. Un video instruccional para las personas de Iowa con discapacidad que necesitaran ayuda usando la machina OVI para votar durante las elecciones. Todos los lugares de Iowa son espacios accesibles y tendrán machinas accesibles para votar.

[See Translation](#)



### OVI voter instructions

An instructional video for Iowans with disabilities who need to use the OVI voting machine.

YOUTUBE.COM

Like Comment Share



**Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action)**

October 25, 2016 · 🌐

We have partnered with Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate to provide military veterans and Iowans with disabilities with more than 20 workshops from now until Election Day. Our goal is to help remove any barriers in the voting process so everyone's voice is heard regardless of political party.

Nos hemos asociado con el Secretario de Estado de Iowa Paul Pate para proporcionar los veteranos de Iowa y las personas con discapacidad con más de 20 talleres a partir de ahora hasta el día de la elección. Nuestro objetivo es ayudar a eliminar todos los obstáculos en el proceso de votación sin importar el partido político.

[See Translation](#)



**Iowa Veterans, Voters with Disabilities Targeted by Get Out The Vote Campaign**

DES MOINES, Iowa-- The latest numbers show nearly 286,000 Iowans have...

WHOTV.COM | BY WHO TV CHANNEL 13 NEWS

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share



**Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) shared Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate's photo.**

October 24, 2016 · 🌐



**Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate**

October 24, 2016 · 🌐

We're partnering with Rik Shannon from Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) to conduct workshops across the state to help veterans & Iowans with disabilities vote. In Marshalltown, Marshall County Auditor Deanne Raymond & Assistant County Auditor Cindy Reutzel joined us.

30-YEAR ARMY VETERAN VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME

