

November General Election 2017:

On Election Day CIDNY staff and volunteers conducted comprehensive polling site survey for accessibility. The survey findings showed many of the same problems identified in previous years. This demonstrates that the New York City Board of Elections has not sufficiently addressed the barriers faced by voters with disabilities. With surveys completed at 59 polling sites, we found that 35 or 59%, of the sites had at least one physical access barrier. Those barriers included narrow doorways, inadequate signage, pathways with broken concrete, non ADA compliant ramps, and poorly placed machines.

Added to the architectural issues at the sites are problems specific to Election Day set up. Our surveyors documented insufficient interior/exterior directional signage, inadequate clearance space at the accessible voting machines or the ADA booth, and poll workers who are still not trained to accommodate people with disabilities. The following is a summary of the barriers we identified. The pictures included below are examples of the issues we documented.

CIDNY teams surveyed a total of 59 sites during the November 7, 2017 General Election. Of the 59 sites surveyed only 24, or 40 percent, were without barriers.

November 7 General Election

	No. of Sites with Barriers	% Barriers
Ramps	7	12%
Exterior/ Interior Signage	12	20%
Entryways/Pathways	19	32%
Interior Access*	9	15%
No. of Sites with Barriers**	35	59%
No. of Sites without Barriers	24	40%
Total No. of Sites Surveyed	59	

****Interior access barriers include insufficient space to access the BMD.***

*****Some polling sites have more than one barrier.***

Ramps

There were a few temporary ramps set up by the NYCBOE that did not meet the required ADA standards. At one site there was a temporary ramp with handrail on one side and no edge protections. It was taped down and not steady. The slope is 1 1/2: 12. At one site there was a short built in ramp with a slope 11:2 that was difficult to navigate. The coordinator said she reported it and requested a temporary ramp but did not receive one. At another site there was a long built-in ramp that changed direction with a 3ft x 10ft landing.

Ramp has broken concrete that can block access.

Bayard Rustin, New York, poorly constructed temporary ramp.



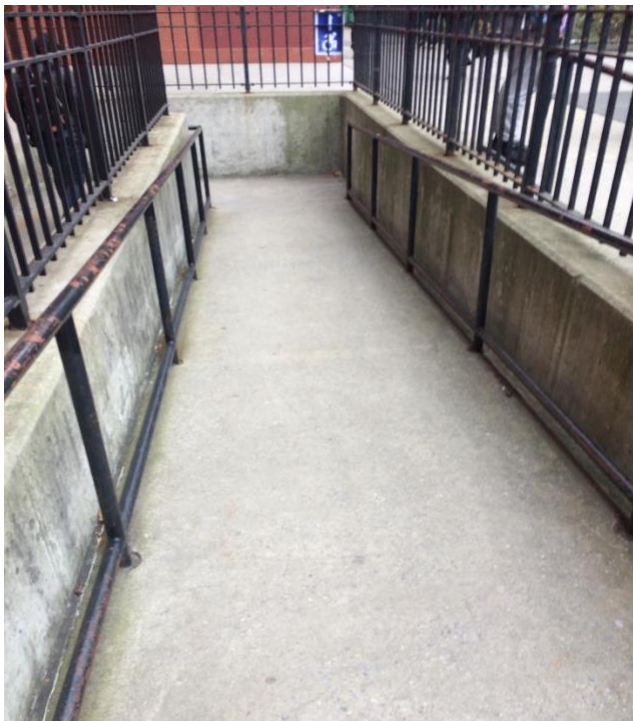
Rutgers Presbyterian Church Manhattan. Ramp with steep slope.



PS 221 Toussaint L'Ouverture Brooklyn, long ramp placed on the driveway



P.S. 92 Adrian Hegeman, Brooklyn. The ramp was too steep, changed direction and not enough landing space, 3ft x 10 ft.



Signage - Exterior

There was a lack of signage designating the accessible entrance at some polling sites. Other signs direct but did not have the address or the writing indicating the address of the accessible entrance was too small. Poll workers said they did not get enough signs.



PS 221 Brooklyn, the writing on the sign was too small.

Entryways/Pathways

Exterior

There were entryways with lips over one inch high with edge broken and sidewalks with broken concrete at pathways to enter the polling site, which poses problems for someone using a wheelchair or a walker. Because most of these breaks in the pathway do not have detectable warnings, they are also tripping hazards for those who are blind or who have low vision.

New Bridges Elementary School, Brooklyn. The lip at the outer accessible entrance was high with broken edges.



IS HS 70 333 West 18th Street, New York, NY. The entrance door has a lip approximately 1 1/4" high with cracked cement.



PS 130 Brooklyn. The pathway had a bad bevel that would not be difficult for people with mobility issues to navigate.



777 Concourse Village, Bronx. Broken sidewalk on the pathway to polling site.



PS 41 Queens, cone used to keep door open blocks the entrance.



New Heights Elementary School, Brooklyn. Cone propping door.



Benjamin N. Cardozo High School, Queens, The door handles are inaccessible.



Crown Heights Library, Brooklyn – The lip at the entrance was too high and the door opening 31 ½ inches wide.



Interior Access

The interior door openings at some sites were less than the thirty-two inches required by the ADA and some interior doors were heavy and hard to open. There were other barriers such as items blocking pathways and lips that were high with broken beveled edges.

Placement of the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) with the required spacing for access continued to be a problem. This was addressed by most coordinators after CIDNY surveyors informed them, if there was enough space to move the equipment. Some sites had too much equipment so this was not possible, however this could be addressed with changes to the schematics of some sites.

Fennimore United Methodist Church, Brooklyn - Platform with high wooden lip about 1" tall and broken creating a tripping hazard



United Methodist Church - Pile of items near elevator exit, was in pathway from elevator into voting area.



PS 55 Maure, Queens. Placement of furniture made it difficult to get to the check in tables and voting machine.



CIDNY Poll Site Survey Summary from 2003-2016

Results of the November 2016 CIDNY surveys mirror results of surveys done since 2003. The November 2016 surveys show that 78 percent still exhibit barriers that render New York City polling sites non-ADA compliant and inaccessible to New York City voters with disabilities.

November 7, 2017	59 Sites Visited, 35 sites or 59% with Barriers
November 8, 2016	64 Sites Visited, 50 sites or 78% with Barriers
April 19, 2016	58 Sites Visited, 45 sites or 78% with Barriers

November 2015	43* Sites Visited, 37 sites or 88% with Barriers
November 2014	62 Sites Visited, 43 Sites or 69% with Barriers
September 2014	46 Sites Visited, 33 Sites or 72% with Barriers
November 2013	80 Sites Visited, 27 Sites or 66.6% with Barriers
November 2012	132 Sites Visited, 108 Sites or 81.8% with Barriers
September 2012	43 Sites Visited, 37 Sites or 86% with Barriers
November 2011	55 Sites Visited, 46 Sites or 84% with Barriers
November 2010	53 Sites Visited, 40 Sites or 75% with Barriers
September 2010	53 Sites Visited, 42 Sites or 80% with Barriers
November 2009	51 Sites Visited, 43 Sites or 84% with Barriers
November 2008	65 Sites Visited, 54 Sites or 83% with Barriers
September 2008	24 Sites Visited, 21 Sites or 87% with Barriers
November 2007	50 Sites Visited, 42 Sites or 84% with Barriers
November 2006	15 Sites Visited, 15 Sites or 100% with Barriers
November 2005	77 Sites Visited, 57 Sites or 74% with Barriers
November 2004	85 Sites Visited, 52 Sites or 61% with Barriers
September 2004	35 Sites Visited, 15 Sites or 43% with Barriers
March 2004	44 Sites Visited, 30 Sites or 68% with Barriers
November 2003	31 Sites Visited, 14 Sites or 42% with Barriers

*One site was not in operation.

Since 2003, CIDNY has surveyed 1225 polling sites; with an average of 74.7% with barriers.