

## SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC

At this time the global focus is on how to limit exposure to the novel coronavirus, protect ourselves and others from getting Covid-19, and ultimately develop the ability to move beyond this pandemic. As we isolate at home, many of our accessibility issues recede in prominence but they do not disappear. During this time, HMDA's active advocacy work will be on pause. We may reduce newsletter frequency but know that we continue to be dedicated to achieving full accessibility for those of us with HMD.

**Together we will make a difference!**

### Encourage New Members!

**The larger our Alliance is, the more effectively we can advocate.**

**Invite friends and family to join!**

## Ensuring Voting Rights

During this pandemic, governments are enacting public health constraints to slow and ultimately contain the spread of Covid-19. Equally important is finding approaches that protect citizens' ability to participate in forming public policy, particularly through the right to vote.

The illustration below highlights the accessibility challenges in many of our voting places, with long walks between voting stations and few, if any, places to sit. We could add the all too frequent long lines that may increase our wait time by hours. Please remember to take portable seating with you!

Fortunately, some jurisdictions do arrange for seating at the various voting stations (although there typically remain the often considerable walks between stations) and there is increased pressure to allow voting by mail, which eliminates walking altogether. Voting is an important civil right and civic duty. Please educate those who set up local voting locations!

**The "squeaky wheel" gets action!**



**No place to sit!**

**How will I be able to walk that far and stand that long?**

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**5 Core Members**  
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