

Polling Place Accessibility Report to the Commission on People with Disabilities
April 27, 2006
Office of the City Clerk

Madison currently has 76 polling locations. In February of 2004, I received a memorandum from Kevin Kennedy, Executive Director of the State Elections Board regarding the polling place accessibility survey that needed to be completed for each of the polling locations. At the April 2004 election, I had staff visit each of the polling locations and complete the survey. Copies of the survey were then forward to the State Election Board.

In November of 2005, I received a copy of the Polling Place Accessibility Survey of Polling Locations that the State Elections Board determined that were in non-compliance. Two staff members and myself visited each of the 18 polling locations to determine what needed to be done to bring them into compliance. The information was documented, the application for reimbursement of polling place improvements was completed, a new survey was filled out and all documents forward to the State Elections Board. The necessary signs and bell calls were ordered.

In January 2006, I received documentation from the State Elections Board on which polling places were approved for funds under the Polling Place Accessibility Improvement Grant.

Attached is a listing of the polling places that were identified by the State Elections Board as non-accessible, the reason, estimated cost and the funds appropriated:

In addition the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy also conducted a physical accessibility survey and forwarded a summary to the City Clerk's Office. Based on the survey results of the volunteers, I had staff visit each of these polling locations at the February 2006 election to assess the accessibility issue. Listed below are their findings.

Boys and Girls Club:

WCA found a total of eight (8) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible standard spaces that were at least 12 feet wide. A surveyor suggested that there should be parking spaces closer to the entrance of the polling site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. All curbs from the parking lot and the path to the building were not cut or ramped properly. The stairs along the pathway to the building were not properly ramped. The ramp does not have a proper handrail. The accessible route to the building was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and there was not an automatic opener or other means to identify that someone needs help to open the door.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. All doors within the interior of the building were not propped open and are heavy. There were obstacles in the corridors, which extended more than 4 inches from the wall.

Staff observed - Primary entrance is on Taft Street. A sign needs to be posted at Fisher St. entrance, directing voters to the entrance off Taft St. At the Taft St. (primary entrance), the ramp does have a handrail – there is no automatic door opener however, the Election Officials sit facing the door so they can see a person and can assist. The City of Madison will provide bell call. Two spaces are marked on the pavement for handicapped parking but sign is missing from one post and the other space has no post or sign. These two spaces are directly off the Taft St. parking entrance. There is less than 25 total parking spaces so only 1 van-accessible space is required. The Boys and Girls Club should be required to post the appropriate signs, if not the City of Madison will need to provide temporary signs. Also, staff did not observe any obstacles on Election Day.

Capitoland Christian Center:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The pathway to the building was too steep.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The rugs or mats were not securely fastened or removed on Election Day. Problems within the voting area: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no voting instructions posted, and the entrance to the voting booth was too narrow.

Staff observed – that the pathway from the parking lot is almost totally flat. Front doors are new and not heavy (could open with fist). New floor mats have been installed and are secure. Voting instructions were clearly posted. Staff gave the Election Officials two extra extenders to add to the existing extenders making the handicapped-voting booth wide enough to accommodate a larger wheel chair.

Crestwood Elementary School:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The curb cut from the parking lot to the path to the building was problematic. The surveyor mentioned that the current curb cut is wide, but only runs along one of the accessible parking spots. If that parking spot were in use and the vehicle was parked close to the sidewalk, the curb cut would be unavailable to be used by anyone else.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The route to the voting area was not directly inside the building and was not clearly marked. The rugs were not all securely fastened. Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There was not sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs in the voting area.

Staff observed – The primary entrance is off the rear parking lot. The parking lot has van-accessible space. City will need to provide one van-accessible and one standard metal state handicapped sign. The school custodian will post them on the fence and use cones to designate the van-accessible space for Election Day. The current van-accessible space will be relocated. Door has automatic door opener. Voting space is arranged so that wheel chair access is not problematic.

For Presidential elections – the polling location is moved to the gym. City will need to provide signage at the main entrance, directing voters to the parking lot directly behind the school for handicapped parking. Additional signage will need to be provided at the elevator, directing voters to the gym.

Dane County Neighborhood Intervention:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and did not have an automatic door opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Staff observed – bell call is used at this facility. The inside door was propped open.

Doyle Administrative Building:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. On Election Day, the accessible parking isle was blocked by dumpsters, and the accessible parking spot was temporarily removed. There were no parking spaces clearly marked near the accessible entrance, and there was no passenger drop off area.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The rugs or mats were not securely fastened.

Staff observed – primary entrance is off Dayton Street. Handicapped parking is off rear parking lot closest to the Bedford St. There are 2 van accessible and 1 regular handicapped spaces available. The handicapped entrance is clearly marked and has automatic door opener. Hallway inside building is clearly marked with polling place signs directing voters to the polling area. This area is also used for accessible passenger drop-off. City of Madison will provide signage to be posted on the Dayton St., indicating the handicapped parking and accessibility entrance is off Bedford St. The route is different from the primary route but is clearly marked. Rugs were securely fastened.

Fire Station on 16 W. Dayton:

WCA found a total of nine (9) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Seven (7) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no temporary off street parking spaces designated as accessible (including no van accessible space). There was no paved parking or signage of any kind.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy, but there may be a button to alert the poll worker that assistance was needed. If so, this should be clearly marked, and poll workers should be trained to respond to the bell.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Staff observed – there is no off street parking. Parking is not provided for voters, staff or volunteers. Entrance has been remodeled - there is only one exterior door. The City of Madison will provide a bell call.

Gates of Heaven:

WCA found a total of fourteen (14) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no van accessible parking space or extra accessible spaces. The accessible parking space was not located nearest to the accessible entrance, and there was no accessible passenger drop-off area. We also found that the one standard accessible space was not clearly marked.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the pathway to the building was not smooth and was also too steep. Also, the pathway was not properly ramped and the accessible route to the building was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The exterior door was too heavy to open and there is no automatic door or other accommodation to get in the building. We also found that the ramp at the entrance of the building was too steep and that there was no protection on the edge of the ramp to prevent someone from slipping off the ramp.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the door thresholds too high and that the doors along the interior route were not propped open and were too heavy.

Staff observed – no van accessible parking spot in parking lot. There is one disabled regular parking spot, clearly marked. There is less than 25 total parking spaces so only 1 van-accessible space is required. City of Madison will provide one temporary van-accessible sign and cones to designate space. The City of Madison will provide a sign directing voters to the Gorham St. entrance from parking lot. Staff worked with Traffic Engineering and it has been determined that there is no accessible passenger drop-off area nor can the accessible parking be located nearest the accessible entrance. Doors along the interior route were propped open. Bell call is used. Staff did not find any ramp.

Georgia O’Keefe Middle School:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor mentioned that at least one of the doors to the polling room should be propped open. Problems within the voting area: Two (2) problems were found in this section of the survey. We found that there was a portion of the voting instructions, which informed the voter that they can get a new ballot if they make an error that was not in 18 point font. The entrance to the voting booth was too narrow.

Staff observed – Election Officials were instructed to prop open the interior door. Signs were properly posted.

Good Shepard Lutheran Church:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There were no signs to mark the route to the accessible entrance.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The route to the voting area was not clearly marked and the rugs were not securely fastened. The surveyor also mentioned that there was a food donation barrel that was in the way and that the voting area was cluttered.

Staff observed – Primary entrance is off rear parking lot and is accessible and clearly marked. Handicapped spaces are marked. Voting is just inside the main door. Mats are secure. The City of Madison will provide 2 signs, one to be posted at each side parking lot, directing voters to primary entrance.

Henry David Thoreau Elementary:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no permanent or temporary off street parking spaces designated as accessible parking and there was not at least one van accessible space

Staff observed – designated van-accessible parking is off Cherokee Dr. in the schools rear parking lot. Handicapped entrance is clearly marked. Both doors have automatic door openers. The City of Madison will provide a sign at elevator directing voters to second floor LMC. The City of Madison will provide a sign to be posted on Nakoma Rd. indicating that handicapped parking is available off Cherokee Dr. The route is different from the primary route but is clearly marked.

Lapham Elementary School:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was not a van accessible space and the parking spaces were not located nearest to the entrance

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The stairs along the pathway were not ramped or were not ramped properly. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and was not properly marked.

Staff observed – (New sign) in circle drive directing voters to handicapped parking in parking lot at side of school. Disability entrance sign was put on the accessible entrance off parking lot and arrows directing voters to polling location were posted along the path. The route is different from the primary route but is clearly marked.

Lowell Elementary School (LOWELL HALL):

WCA found a total of eight (8) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off street accessible spaces (including van accessible spaces) Therefore, the parking was not near to the accessible entrance to the building. And there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The curbs from the parking lot to the path of the

building are not cut or ramped properly, and the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route and is not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy for many to open, and there was not an automatic opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Staff observed – Primary entrance has been moved to the Frances St. entrance. (New signs) were posted in the parking lot for handicapped parking. “Voter entrance with disability symbol” sign was visible from the sidewalk at the entrance off Frances St. City of Madison will provide a sign, to be posted on Langdon St., directing voters to the Frances St. entrance. The University is redoing the entire parking structure. Handicapped parking should not be an issue when this facility is used in November.

Madison Public Library:

WCA found a total of five (5) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off street accessible spaces (including van accessible spaces), and there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. All rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed.

Staff observed – there is no off street parking. Parking is not provided for voters, staff or volunteers. N. Fairchild St. has two signed handicapped parking spaces. Drop-off on N. Fairchild has curb cut. All rugs and mats had rubber backing and were secure.

MATC:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking (including van accessible spaces).

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and it was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and there was not an automatic door opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Staff observed – The primary entrance has been moved from Wisconsin Ave. to Dayton St. The Dayton St. entrance does have an automatic door opener. There is no off street parking. Parking is not provided for voters, staff or volunteers, however, there is handicapped parking directly across the street in the parking ramp on Carroll St. City of Madison will provide 2 signs, one to be posted on Carroll Street and one on Wisconsin Ave. directing the voter to use the Dayton St. entrance.

Memorial Union:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and it was not properly marked. Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There were no instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger displayed in the voting area.

Staff observed – There is a large blue and white handicapped sign stating handicapped access, clearly visible from the street and sidewalk. Primary route is the accessible route. 18-point font sign was posted.

Midvale Elementary School:

WCA found a total of ten (10) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible parking spaces were located on the opposite end of the building from the nearest accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the curbs were not properly ramped, that the pathway to the building was not smooth and was too steep. We also found that there was not proper ramping, or proper signage designating the accessible route into the building.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The entrance to the building had stairs and steps, and was not properly ramped. The doors to the entrance of the building were narrow, and they were heavy and did not have an automatic opener or other accommodation for access into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The voting area was not directly inside the building and the route or accessible route was not properly marked.

The surveyor commented that the “accessible entrance to polling place was around the side of bldg. No signs in front of bldg. directing people to accessible entrance. Fairly steep, paved, incline to get to accessible entrance; a metal floor grate on inside of door might impede wheelchair. Accessible parking space is irrelevant since it’s so far from polling place. Most people would park on street or get dropped off. There are curb cuts in front of polling place. No sign in front how to get to accessible entrance. Doors marked as accessible were closed, heavy and opened onto a grate. Once inside polling place was basically okay ”

Staff observed – (New sign) was posted at the parking lot entrance off Caromar Dr. directing voters to the primary entrance on the street side. Sign was posted in front of school directing voters to the handicapped parking. Primary entrance is the main entrance to the school; there are no steps, no ramps. Doors are wide and can easily be opened by the Election Officials as they sit directly inside the entrance. The City of Madison will provide a bell call.

No. 6 Fire Department:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility, problems at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior door was heavy and did not have an automatic door or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Staff observed – the Election Officials can always see and hear the person at the door and will assist them. The City of Madison will provide a bell call. The door into the voting area was open.

Olbrich Gardens:

WCA found a total of one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor found that not all rugs or mats were securely fastened.

Staff observed – only mats or rugs were by the front doors. All were secure. Found no rugs or mats inside.

Porchlight:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible parking spaces are not located nearest to the accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the curbs from the parking lot to the path of the building were not cut properly. We also found that the accessible route to the building was different than the primary route and was not properly marked.

Staff observed – Van-accessible parking is at the rear of the building off the alley. The pathway from the parking space is difficult to maneuver due to uneven surface. The accessible entrance with ramp is clearly marked and has an automatic door opener. Curb cut is wide and accessible. It is off the alley and adjacent to accessible entrance. The route is different from the primary route but is clearly marked.

Pyle Center:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking (including van accessible spaces). We also found there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area.

No longer using this facility as a polling location (new polling location – Memorial Library, 728 State St.

Romnes Apartments:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were no van accessible spaces or additional standard accessible spaces.

Staff observed – there are no van accessible spaces close to the primary entrance. There are many well-marked regular handicapped spaces in the parking lot. There are two regular spaces adjacent to the right side of the primary entrance, one of which could be expanded into a van accessible space.
The City of Madison needs to designate a van-accessible space or provide a temporary van-accessible sign and cones to designate the space.

Tenney Park Apartments:

WCA found a total of seven (7) accessibility problems at this site

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there was not more than one standard and one van accessible space, and that there was not a proper curb-cut connecting the parking spaces to the accessible walkway.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the walkways into the building were not well lit

Problems with the entrance to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the doors to the entrance of the building were narrow and that they are heavy and not equipped with an automatic opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that not all of the doors along the accessible route were unlocked on Election Day. Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We did not find voting instructions displayed in the voting area that were printed in 18 point font or larger.

One surveyor commented that the Chief Poll Worker was very responsive to their accessibility questions and concerns.

Staff observed – Walkway into the building is not well lit. Could use more lighting (this will need to be address by City Housing). There is a handicapped button on the inside of the building but not on the outside. The entrance door to the polling location was open (tape covering the lock in the door jam). Voting instructions were displayed on the wall outside the voting room. The City of Madison needs to install an automatic door opener or the City Clerk's Office will provide a bell call. There is less than 25 total parking spaces so only 1 van-accessible space is required. There is a proper curb-cut.

Toki Middle School:

WCA found one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior door was too heavy and that there was no automatic door or other accommodation to get into the building.

Staff observed – Primary entrance is off Russett Rd., main entrance into school. There are two marked handicapped parking spaces and van-accessible spaces in the rear parking lot off Whitney Way. The rear entrance is clearly marked and has an automatic door opener. Hallway inside school is clearly marked with polling place signs directing voters to the polling area. City Clerk's Office will provide a sign to be posted on Russett Rd. directing voters to parking lot for handicapped parking. The route is different from the primary route but is clearly marked.

Vilas Zoo:

WCA found a total of seven (7) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there is no curb-cut connecting the parking spaces to an accessible walkway, and that the accessible spaces are not located near the accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We identified that the accessible route to the building is not properly marked, the walkways are not well lit, and that the path of travel was not free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, and other debris on Election Day.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior doors are too heavy and that there is no automatic door or other accommodation to get in the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that at least one interior door was not propped open and was heavy.

No longer using this facility as a polling location (new location – Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Ave.)

West High School:

WCA found a total of one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We did not find voting instructions printed in 18 point font or large displayed in the voting area.

Staff observed – 18-point font sign was posted directly inside the primary voting entrance.

Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were steep inclines on the path to the building, and that the ramp does not have proper handrails. We also found that the accessible route was not properly marked.

Staff observed – the handicapped entrance is the primary entrance. Voters should not be using the ramp as an entrance. A bell call is used at the primary entrance. Just inside the primary entrance there is an elevator, which will take the voter up to the polling area. (New sign) posted “Voter Entrance with disabled symbol” at the primary entrance.

Sharon Christensen

From: Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 10:11 AM
To: 'patricia Kelly'
Cc: Sharon Christensen
Subject: RE: Inaccessible polling place

Ms Kelly,

Thanks very much for your message regarding the inaccessible polling place at the Tenney Apartments. I share your concern. By copy of this e-mail, I am asking Deputy City Clerk Sharon Christensen to respond to your concerns and questions.

Dave

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Room 403
Madison, WI 53703
608 266 4611
mayor@cityofmadison.com

From: patricia Kelly [mailto:pjkmiffin@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 2:08 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Inaccessible polling place

Mayor Dave,

How can it be that at my polling place at the Tenney Apartments on Johnson and Baldwin it is not possible for a person who uses a wheelchair to get into the front door? Despite a large sign announcing the door as the accessible entrance there is, in fact, no automatic door opener, no way to alert poll workers nothing to do but to give up and go home or wait for a fellow voter to come by and open the door.

I don't know about you but I find this inexcusable in our fine city.

Pat Kelly

Angela Bennett

To: Board of Education – Common Council Liaison Committee

Date: April 18, 2006

Please rectify a serious impediment to accessibility at schools that are used as polling places. Most schools have excellent parking for people with disabilities. However, the entrances to the driveways to these parking spots are marked with large “DO NOT ENTER” signs. Presumably this is to discourage routine student drop-offs. However, these signs also prevent voters with disabilities from finding the accessible spaces.

This situation exists at Leopold, Crestwood, Van Hise, and Muir schools. Thoreau, Midvale, Stephens, and Jefferson have similar situations, but with smaller signs indicating that parking is for authorized vehicles only. There may be other schools with this same problem.

In my opinion, these situations render those polling places inaccessible, in violation of federal law. This puts at risk Madison’s ability to be reimbursed for the new machines (\$5,000 each) that are mandated to be in place for the September election at each polling place to assist voters with disabilities. Please arrange a method to change this situation. Consider placement of temporary highly visible signs at the driveway entrance, reading “Vote Here Today. Parking for Voters with Disabilities.”

Here is another suggestion to improve election day: schedule a staff development day (no school for students) for the November gubernatorial and presidential election days, when there is a very high voter turnout. This would make it easier to find an appropriate room for the polls. Previously, schools have placed equipment and voters in hallways where there is heavy student traffic; or used classrooms, which disrupt classes.

An additional advantage to this schedule proposal is that it will eliminate the extra election-day security concerns for students generated by the many people entering the school to vote. An additional safety concern is the increased vehicular traffic around the school.

Please inform me of progress towards implementing these proposals.

Paul Malischke
4825 Bayfield Terrace
Madison WI 53705
malischke@yahoo.com
238-8976

cc: Enis Ragland, Mayor’s Office
Madison Commission on People with Disabilities
Alicia Sidman, Disability Rights Wisconsin

Contacted Doug
Pearson, cc Barb
Lehman
5-23-06

Maribeth Witzel-Behl

From: Enis Ragland
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 8:58 AM
To: Maribeth Witzel-Behl
Cc: Lisa Olmsted
Subject: FW: relieving the load

Good morning Maribeth,
 Please see the email below. By copy of this message, I'm asking Lisa to schedule a meeting for me with you for next week to discuss these suggestions and what we can do.
 Thanks,
 ER

From: Paul Malischke [mailto:malischke@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:21 PM
To: Enis Ragland
Subject: relieving the load

Hello,
 I have not been shy about offering suggestions, and here is one more. You could devote meaningful time to helping with election issues for the next few months. Rather than Diane coming in and facing an onslaught, she would be happy to know she will get help when needed from management.

You could take responsibility for one or more of these tasks:

- Accessibility – if there are remaining issues, Alicia Sidman and Dan Rossmiller of the SEB will be happy to bring you up to speed.
- Recruiting and training pollworkers – You could start planning the campaign to get enough pollworkers.
- Automark ballot assist terminals – You could manage the check-in program, testing, learn the operation, and develop a training program for the pollworkers. Bob Ohlsen and the vendor would be resources. They are scheduled to arrive in June.
- Find a polling place to replace the Doyle Administration building. → Signage

Last month my wife's mother had a pacemaker put in. I encouraged her to take some time off work and travel to be with her parents. I asked her "What could you possibly be doing those days that would be more important?" When she came back, she was very glad she did it.

I am sure the Mayor and staff have more than enough on your plate, but what could be more important than working for a smooth election in November? Elections are the heart of our representative form of government. The day after, you will be glad you did it.

Cheers,
 Paul Malischke

Maribeth Witzel-Behl

From: Douglas Pearson [dpearson@madison.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2006 11:56 AM
To: Maribeth Witzel-Behl
Cc: Barb Lehman
Subject: Re: Polling Place concerns

I have seen this letter. Yes, these schools have restricted parking signs that were created to control parent drop off. Some of these sites already have portable signs that read "Voter Parking". The custodian puts these out on polling days. We are having permanent signs made up that read "Except for voting" for placement under the restricted parking signs.

>>> "Maribeth Witzel-Behl" <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com> 5/23/2006
11:18:50 AM >>>
Doug -

Please see the attached memo regarding polling place accessibility at Madison schools.

Is it true that Leopold, Crestwood, Van Hise, Muir, Thoreau, Midvale, Stephens, and Jefferson have signs preventing voter access to handicap accessible parking? If so, would it be possible to cover these signs on Election Days with signage indicating that the entrance should be used for Voter Handicap Accessible Parking only?

Please let me know if I should be contacting someone else with these questions.

Thank you for your help!

- Maribeth
Interim City Clerk