



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Donavan
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
McKinney
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Detroit Disability Power, a fiscally sponsored project of Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Detroit Disability Power: 4731 Grand River Ave, Detroit, MI 48208; Michigan Disability Rights Coalition: 3498 E Lake Lansing Rd #100, East Lansing, MI 48823
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Detroit Disability Power: 4731 Grand River Ave, Detroit, MI 48208; Michigan Disability Rights Coalition: 3498 E Lake Lansing Rd #100, East Lansing, MI 48823
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
State Representative Joe Tate, 9th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The spending would fund the expansion of the accessible poll audit program conducted by Detroit Disability Power. The funding would allow the program to expand beyond southeast Michigan and conduct audits in other regions of the state creating a more complete picture of the accessibility of voting across the state for voters with disabilities. Currently the program primarily operates in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. The funding is projected to allow the program to expand to 30 or more counties.

The program evaluates polling locations based on Federal and State laws, like The Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Help America Vote Act and Michigan Election Law, with the ultimate purpose of identifying barriers to the voting process for Disabled Voters and finding solutions to help clerks eliminate these barriers and be in compliance with accessible voting requirements.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

500000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

MDRC does have a board but Detroit Disability Power does not have a board. MDRC Board: Yuself Seegars-Chair; Alan Hejl-Vice Chair; Elizabeth Abdnour, Esq-Secretary; Dalia Smith-Treasurer; Lucia Rios; Bill Earl; Stuart Herman

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Anticipated start date October 1, 2025, Anticipated end date March 31, 2026.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

# 2026 Michigan Budget Priority: ENSURE THAT POLLING LOCATIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL VOTERS

Detroit Disability Power | March 2025

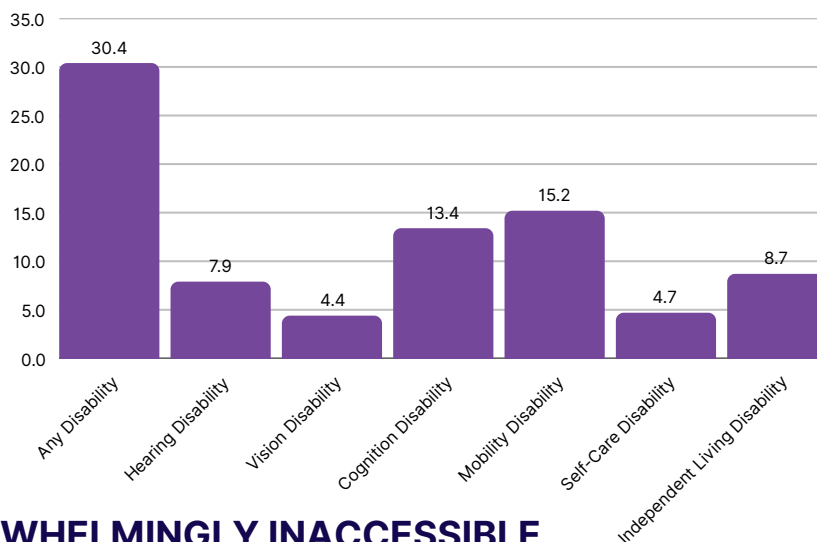


Creating accessibility at polling locations for disabled voters ensures polling locations are accessible for all voters.

## DISABILITY IS A PART OF EVERY COMMUNITY

✎ Nearly 1 in 3 Michiganders (30.4%) have a disability.\* This means that there are voters with disabilities in every precinct in the state. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) require that these voters be provided with means to cast their ballot in person on Election Day if they so choose.

Percentage of Michiganders with Disabilities\*



## POLLING LOCATIONS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY INACCESSIBLE

✎ 84% of polling locations audited by Detroit Disability Power during the 2022 General Election had one or more accessibility barrier according to the standards established by the ADA and DOJ. The barriers range from inaccessible parking, pathways and entrances to the availability of accessible voting equipment and voting booths.

## ACCESSIBILITY AT POLLING LOCATIONS CAN BE IMPROVED

✎ Both short and long term improvement solutions to accessibility issues can be identified and implemented through auditing, reporting and collaborative support for municipal and county clerks.

## CLERKS CAN ADDRESS SOME ISSUES, OTHER ISSUES WILL REQUIRE SUPPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

✎ Previous DDP auditing found that some issues were within a clerk's ability to address through additional or more specific training of election workers. For example, issues related to accessible voting machine setup and positioning. Meanwhile, other aspects, like inaccessible parking lots and sidewalk will require investments from government and private property owners to address. However, accessibility of the polling location can only be improved if both the issues within and beyond the clerk's jurisdiction are addressed.

\*Tian, Y., McKane, P., Lee, C., Frame, A., & Wimberley, R. Disability and Race/Ethnicity among Michigan Adults. Michigan BRFSS Surveillance Brief. Vol. 12, No. 1. Lansing, MI: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Lifecourse Epidemiology and Genomics Division, March 2021.

# 2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

## INVEST \$500,000 IN THE EXPANSION OF DETROIT DISABILITY POWER'S ACCESSIBLE POLL AUDIT PROGRAM

✎ The State lacks the infrastructure to build and operate a robust audit program like DDP's existing program in time to assess accessibility during the 2026 Election. Our audit program has established a processes for training auditors that results in consistent and actionable data, allowing for clerks to assess and improve accessibility at their polling locations. This support would expand DDP's proven program to include rural communities and additional metropolitan areas, providing a clearer view of polling place accessibility statewide.

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## EXISTING SCOPE OF DDP ACCESSIBLE POLL AUDIT PROGRAM

✎ To date, DDP's program has mostly focused on communities in and around Detroit. In 2022, efforts included 261 polling sites across 15 municipalities. In 2024, we expanded to include early voting sites and more communities in addition to revisiting the Election Day polling locations from the 2022 audits. Preliminary data from the 2024 audits show that 87% of polling locations had one or more accessibility barriers (a 3% increase). Full data from the 2024 audits is currently being compiled and the corresponding report is expected to be released in April.

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## 2025 POLL AUDITS AND FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM

- ✎ Planning is currently underway to conduct accessible poll audits during the municipal elections in August and November of 2025. In addition to another round of audits in Detroit, DDP is working to recruit, train and prepare partner organizations to conduct audits in municipalities outside of southeast Michigan. Increasing the covered municipalities will gather more data and allow for a broader evaluation of the accessibility of polling locations across the state.
- ✎ DDP is currently developing a new audit survey and procedure to evaluate ballot drop box accessibility. Access at these sites is essential for voters who wish to cast an absentee ballot, but prefer to or need to return their ballot themselves rather than mail it to the clerk.
- ✎ In the pending 2024 report, sites are additionally categorized based on their type of building (school, church, fire station, etc.). This will help identify who holds jurisdiction over the infrastructure of a polling site. DDP hopes to further utilize this data to engage both building owners and other government agencies that share use of facilities, and work collectively toward solutions to accessibility issues. For example, collaborating with school boards and churches that have accessibility problems at their locations, or team up with emergency management departments for places that serve as both polling sites and warming/cooling centers. Involving organizations beyond the Clerk's office can help address accessibility challenges caused by major infrastructure problems, and create more opportunities to resolve them.

**Resource: 2022 Poll Audit Report: <https://www.DetroitDisabilityPower.org/PollAudit>**

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