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## **Local Authorities Election – MAY 06,2025**

### **Provisions for the Inclusion of Voters with Disabilities in the Electoral Process**

The Election Commission has undertaken the following measures to ensure that voters with disabilities and provided reasonable accommodations to cast their vote during the Local Authorities Election.

2. Under the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 2011, a voter who is blind, has low vision, or has a physical disability that prevents them from marking the ballot paper correctly, may bring an assistant to mark the ballot on their behalf and drop it into the ballot box in the presence of the Senior Presiding Officer and another polling staff member.
3. If a voter is unable to travel to the polling station by foot or public transport due to physical disability (mobility condition), they may obtain written authority from the Returning Officer to use a vehicle for this purpose. This provision is made under Section 82G (4) (d) of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance.
4. Complimentary Three-wheeler transportation will be provided from the main entrance of the polling location for voters who need to walk 100 meters or more from the polling station entrance to the voting area and are unable to walk due to physical disability or mobility issues.
5. To enable voters who are blind or have low vision to vote independently, a Tactile Stencil Frame will be provided at every polling station. Polling officials have been instructed to provide necessary assistance and ensure unobstructed access to this facility for voters with visual disabilities.
6. The Election Commission accepts temporary identity cards issued to persons with permanently disabilities as valid identification document for voting. Voters presenting these cards will be allowed to cast their vote at the polling stations.
7. To ensure accessibility for voters with deafness or difficult to hear, polling stations will display key notices, including list of valid identity documents and prohibited items, in sign-language formats within the premises.
8. The Election Commission has ensured that candidate information for all recognized political parties and independent groups is available in three languages through its e-services platform. These materials, published in Unicode-compliant fonts, are fully accessible to voters with visual disabilities using screen reader-compatible devices, including mobile phones and computers. (To access candidate information for the Local Authorities Election, voters may utilize the Election Commission's e-services portal (<https://eservices.elections.gov.lk>). By selecting the "Voter Registration Information" e-service under the "For Citizens" section and entering their National Identity Card number, users can retrieve relevant candidate details through the "KYC" link. For convenience, the Election Commission has also introduced a QR code for this service, available on its official website).



9. Additional Accessibility Provisions for Voters with Disabilities at Polling Stations:

- 9.1 Polling station officials shall provide full assistance to voters using wheelchairs or mobility aids by removing all physical barriers (including potholes, drains, gravel, uneven terrain, or other obstacles) along the access route from the main entrance to the polling building, where permanent ramps are available. If not, available temporary ramps will be installed to facilitate unimpeded access to the polling station.
- 9.2 Assistance will be provided for ballot marking while ensuring the confidentiality and independence of the voter's choice.
- 9.3. Voting cubicles will be positioned in well-lit areas with sufficient lighting.
- 9.4. Ballot boxes will be positioned on tables at accessible height for voters who use wheelchairs and for little People.
- 9.5. Voters with low vision are permitted to bring and use personal magnifying devices (including handheld magnifier, specialized glasses, or other assistive tools) to read and mark their ballot independently at the polling station.
- 9.6. For voters who are unable to read the ballot paper or who request clarification, polling officials will provide clear explanations and allow sufficient time for the voter to mark the ballot.

10. All polling station officials including but not limited to Senior Presiding Officers are hereby instructed to strictly adhere to all guidelines and directives issued by the Election Commission to ensure voters with disabilities experience minimal inconvenience when exercising their franchise.

The Election Commission continues its efforts to promote the inclusion of citizens with disabilities in to the Electoral process on an equal opportunity with others and to ensure the full realization of their right to vote.

By order of the Election Commission,



**Saman Sri Ratnayake**  
Commissioner General of Elections.