

5. Signage - Section 1117B

Signage is used extensively on Election Day to direct voters arriving at the polling place to the voting area. However, not all areas or features of a building open on Election Day are under the jurisdiction of county elections officials. For this reason, those areas of a facility used by county elections officials shall be clearly marked to provide accessibility for all voters. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, §§ 1117B.5.1.2, 1117B.5.8.1.2.)

When a voter arrives at the polling place, several signs may be necessary to show elderly voters and voters with disabilities where to vote. All directional entrance signs placed at arrival points to the polling place shall conform with this section. Additional directional signs shall be provided to guide voters toward and through the accessible path of travel to the voting area. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.8.1.2.)

The standard symbol used to identify facilities and features that are accessible to elderly voters and persons with disabilities is the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). The ISA used by county elections officials consists of a white figure on a blue background. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.8.1.) See Figure 15.



Figure 15

Providing way-finding signage to the voting area is accomplished by using the ISA in conjunction with large bold arrows and/or other directional symbols.

All accessible signage regardless of content shall have a non-glare finish. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.2.) For signage that must

be laminated to withstand exterior weather conditions, it is recommended that a matte or satin finish laminate be applied to reduce glare.

Accessible signs shall also have character and symbol colors that contrast with the background color. (Dark symbols on a light background or light symbols on a dark background.) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.2.) See Figure 16.



Figure 16

All accessible building entrances shall be identified with the ISA. Entrances which are not accessible on Election Day shall have directional signage that indicates the location of and route to the nearest accessible entrance. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.8.1.2.) Directional signs shall have contrasting colors and non-glare finish (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.2.) Directional and informational signs do not require raised letters and Braille. See Figure 17.



Figure 17

Permanent rooms and spaces identified with names or room numbers that are used by elections officials shall be identified with signs containing the corresponding names and numbers in raised letters/numerals and Grade 2 Braille. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, §§ 1117B.5.1.2, 1117B.5.6.) These signs shall be installed on the wall adjacent to the latch-side, or strike-side edge, of the door. The center of each sign shall be placed 60 inches above the floor on the approach side of the door. If there is no wall space on the latch-side of the door (for example double doors) signs shall be placed on the nearest adjacent wall, preferably on the right side. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.7.) See Figure 18.

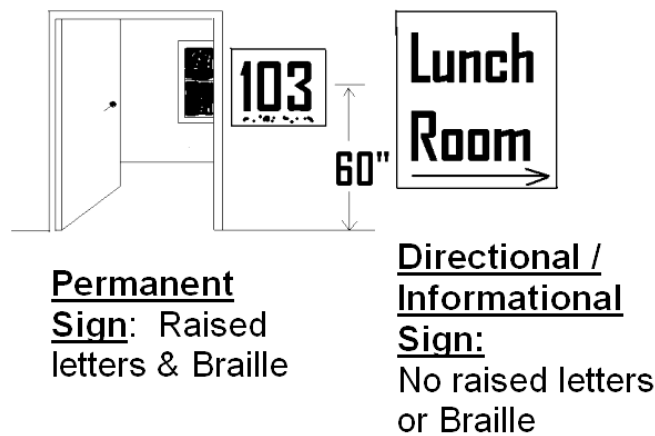


Figure 18

A voter shall be able to approach within 3 inches of a sign without encountering protruding objects, or standing/wheeling within the swing of a door. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 24, § 1117B.5.7.)

Additional ways of accommodation provided in the voting area may include assigning a poll worker the duty of providing way-finding throughout the day and during emergencies.