

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Promoting Access To Voting

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General Comment

I sometimes vote at the pole, but with my work schedule and transportation issues, it is much easier to use the absentee ballot for voting. Due to COVID, for the 2020 presidential election, I contacted the Rutherford County Election Commission and requested an accessible absentee ballot, which for the first time ever was an option for voters in Tennessee. I was provided an accessible ballot that I could fill out privately on my computer, but the ballot had to then be printed, signed, and an envelop filled out by hand for it to be returned to the election commission. This process was not totally accessible because I had to enlist the help of my son to sign the ballot and then he had to address the envelope for me. In order for this process to be totally accessible and anonymous, the process would need to be entirely digital so that I could fill out the ballot online or in an app and then electronically submit it to the election commission. I am hopeful that this will be the case for future elections.