

Accessibility expert to advise county on new **vote** centers

Public welcome to attend vote center advisory committee meeting Tuesday

By Dawn Hewitt 331-4377 | dhewitt@heraldt.com

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Anyone worried about whether proposed vote centers will be accessible to all voters can hear from the state's expert on the subject at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Jeremy Burton, outreach coordinator with the Indiana secretary of state's Help America Vote Act Office, will be speaking in the atrium of the Curry Building, 214 W. Seventh St.

Burton will make a presentation to the **Monroe** County Vote Center Advisory Committee and then take questions from the committee and the public. Burton is responsible for nonpartisan voter education and poll worker training throughout the state, according to a news release.

The former Brown County resident also oversees the state's HAVA Fraud and Accessibility Grievance process, in which he helps voters and county governments resolve polling place accessibility and election fraud disputes.

The committee is in the process of identifying 25 potential polling places, which the county election board will narrow to 20 for Nov. 8 elections, replacing 67 precinct sites.

The federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 provides federal funds for states to:

Maintain an accurate list of citizens who are qualified to vote.

Encourage every eligible voter to participate effectively.

Use equipment that reliably clarifies and registers the voter's choice.

Conduct elections in a foreseeable and fair way.

Operate with equal effectiveness for every citizen and every community.

Reflect limited but responsible federal participation.

A major concern is the accessibility of each polling site. The Americans with Disabilities Act website provides a checklist for polling places that considers 55 criteria to ensure that voters who use wheelchairs, as well as those with visual, hearing or developmental disabilities and numerous other challenges, can vote without impediments.

Monroe County Clerk Linda Robbins invited Burton to address the committee and the public.

"There were questions about HAVA and exactly what it takes to be compliant," she said. "We're bringing Jeremy Burton in to clarify those matters and to educate the public as to what a disability is."

“I really do want people to come to this meeting,” she said. “The more people understand this, I think it would be a great eye-opener as to what to look for in a site. We’re looking for public input, so it’s only fair that we give them some feedback and the public information that goes with it.”

Public welcome

WHO: Jeremy Burton, outreach coordinator with the Indiana secretary of state’s Help America Vote Act Office.

WHERE: The atrium of the Curry Building, 214 W. Seventh St.

WHEN: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

WHAT: Burton will make a presentation to the Monroe County Vote Center Advisory Committee and then take questions from the committee and the public.

Jeremy D. Burton

Help America Vote Act Outreach Manager
Indiana Secretary of State
302 W. Washington Street, Room E-111
Indianapolis, IN 46204
jdburton@sos.in.gov
317-232-6685 (office)
317-755-6901 (cell)
317-233-3675 (fax)

If a person is unclear concerning election law provisions, the Help America Vote Act Office can be used as an interpretive resource. However, where your legal rights are concerned, you must consult with your own attorney to be fully and properly advised.