



City of Malden

Massachusetts



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June 2, 2021

Accessibility and Evaluation Report for use of 787 Salem Street as Ward 6 Precinct 1 Polling Location of all Future Elections

In accordance with the requirements of Mass General Laws, Chapter 54, Section 24 the City of Malden is requesting the approval of a new polling location for all future elections held in Ward 6, Precinct 1. The need for this location change became necessary when in October 2020 the Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS) that housed the previous polling place terminated their working relationship with the City in regards to all future elections.

The proposed location is Club 24 at 787 Salem Street. This is an ADA compliant community building owned by a non-profit organization that has been a staple in Malden for over fifty years and is overseen by a Board of Directors who are eager to collaborate with the City to maintain enfranchisement opportunity for Malden's voting population. A completed accessibility survey, as produced by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and supporting photographs are attached to this request, for proper review.

Club 24 is a centrally located building that is only steps away from the previous polling place stationed at MVRCS. Although based over the precinct line in 6-2, the City reserves the right to designate this polling place in an adjacent precinct as it better serves the public convenience than any option thus far available to us in 6-1.

The neighborhood is familiar to Ward 6 voters, is located on four different city bus routes, and is two blocks from the downtown Maplewood Square area. Club 24 provides the space and accommodations to be able to serve voters of all abilities and is able to house all the necessary equipment needed to responsibly conduct in person voting.

Seven days a week, Club 24 is open to serve residents from this and surrounding communities, consisting of clients from all age brackets, income levels, races, nationalities, and personal backgrounds. Malden is one of the most diverse cities in the Commonwealth and this is reflected in the club's constituency. The philosophy of Club 24 is to be a welcoming, safe space for all who enter, either for services offered or for purposes of voting.

For all of the reasons as stated above, Malden's City Clerk and Board of Registrars of Voters maintain that moving this polling location would not cause any disparate, adverse impacts on access to the polls based on race, national origin, disability, income, or age. This request was respectfully submitted for approval to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office on April 5, 2021.

On June 2, 2021, a representative of the Secretary's Office contacted the Assistant Registrar of Voters to confirm Club 24 was in compliance with Polling Place Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped Voters regulations. 950 C.M.R. ss 51.00, et seq. and has been approved for use as the Ward 6, Precinct 1 polling location.

POLLING PLACE AND REGISTRATION SITE ACCESS

LOCATION: _____ DATE: _____

WARD: _____ PRECINCT: _____

SURVEYOR: _____ SURVEYOR: _____

TITLE: _____ TITLE: _____

This checklist is based on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's regulations for polling place accessibility 950 CMR 51:00. To complete this survey, you will need a level and a tape measure. Please specify in the "Comments" section, below, any issues that need further clarification.

1. Site access (Path of Travel):

____ (a) The paths of travel to the polling place from the parking lot and from the street are clear, reasonably lit, and unobstructed.

____ (b) The paths have continuous common surfaces, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

____ (c) The path of travel is the same or a substantially similar distance for all persons entering the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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2. Parking:

_____ (a) The required number of handicapped parking spaces is provided as follows:

<u>total no. of parking spaces</u>	<u>no. of handicapped spaces required</u>
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	7
301 - 400	8
401 - 500	9
501 -1,000	2% of total
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000

(b) for parking lots striped prior to 9/1/96:

_____ (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 4 foot access aisle which is painted or striped yellow. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

_____ (2) The handicapped parking spaces are identified by a sign at each space or pair of spaces containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground.

(c) for parking lots striped after 9/1/96:

_____ (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 5 foot access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

_____ (2) Is there at least one "van accessible" space. (one in every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible, but no less than one) This space is 8 feet wide and has an adjacent 8-foot wide access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonable lit.

_____ (3) Each handicapped parking space is identified by a sign containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground. Van accessible spaces shall include the words "Van Accessible."

_____ (d) Any sidewalk provided at the handicapped parking spaces has a curb cut (sidewalk ramp), with a slope no greater than 1:12, at each space or pair of spaces.

_____ (e) If no parking lot is available, there is at least one on-street parking space which is at least temporarily designated as a handicapped parking space during the election in front of the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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3. Entrance

____ (a) At least one entrance to the building is accessible.

____ (b) The approach to the accessible entrance is a paved walk or ramp with a non-slip surface uninterrupted by steps or changes in level greater than 1/2 inch. There is a level space 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.

____ (c) Lever handles or other accessible hardware are provided on doors, so that they may be operated with a closed fist.

____ (d) Doorways are at least 32 inches clear width. Door thresholds are no higher than 1/2 inch above the floor.

____ (e) If the main entrance is not accessible, signs direct people to the accessible entrance.

____ (f) If the accessible entrance is not the main entrance, it is unlocked and able to be used without assistance during the same hours as the main entrance.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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4. Ramps

____ (a) If the entrance has stairs, there is either a permanent or portable ramp. If permanent, the ramp has a slope no steeper than 1:12.

____ (b) The ramp is at least 48 inches wide.

____ (c) The ramp has two pairs of handrails along both sides that are round or oval in shape and are set in pairs, one at a height between 34 and 38 inches and a lower one at a height between 18 and 20 inches.

____ (d) If the ramp is portable, it is as close to 1:12 as possible, and either handrails or wheel guards at least two inches high on both sides are provided.

(e) Please describe the portable ramp (if applicable):

Comments (City /Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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5. Building Interior

____ (a) All interior doors, approaches, and ramps necessary to obtain access to the polling place comply with 3 and 4 above.

____ (b) An accessible route which provides a continuous unobstructed path at least 36 inches wide is maintained inside the polling place and shall coincide with the route for the general public.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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6. Voting Equipment

_____ (a) All Polls - A sample ballot will be posted on the wall no higher than 48 inches above the floor.

_____ (b) Paper or Datavote ballots - At least one marking shelf (one for each party in a primary for Datavote) provides a clear space under it at least 30 inches wide, at least 27 inches clear to the underside, and no more than 32 inches high to the top. Any Datavote stylus handle is at least 1 ¼ inches thick and at least 3 inches long.

_____ (c) Voting machines - At least one machine has a sample ballot posted inside, not higher than 48 inches.

_____ Voting levers are no higher than 48 inches above the floor, or a "reacher" is available for the upper levels.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED SURVEY TO:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
ATTN: Bridget Simmons Murphy
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Elections Division
1 Ashburton Place, 17th floor
Boston, MA 02108**



Difficult to see from this angle but there is a crosswalk and wheelchair curb cut steps from the front door.



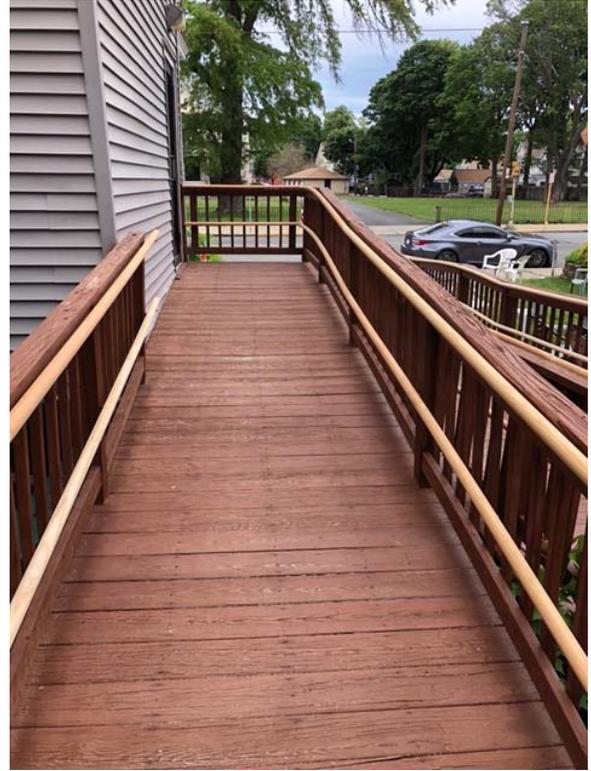
Ron Hogan of the Parking Department has assured us use of temporary handicapped parking signs to qualify for Section 2, Parking requirements of Site Access Report.



View from front of the building. Four steps into the building for walkers and a wheelchair ramp to the left for those who may need other accommodation.



Furniture may be moved to open up area needed for set up of polling booths.



Wheelchair ramp from two angles showing newly installed handrails.

RE: Moving a Polling Place - Message (HTML)

You replied to this message on 6/3/2021 10:14 AM.

From: Murphy, Bridget Simmons (SEC) <bridget.simmons.murphy2@state.ma.us>
To: Carol Ann Desiderio
Cc: Tassinari, Michelle (SEC)
Subject: RE: Moving a Polling Place

Sent: Wed 6/2/2021 2:23 PM

Hi Carol Ann,

Thank you for sending updated photos of the work completed on the ramp. Photos are very helpful and I appreciate your follow-up.

I am emailing you to follow-up the survey of the proposed polling location you conducted on April 1, 2021 of the Club 24 located at 787 Salem Street in Malden to ensure compliance with the Polling Place Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped Voters regulations. 950 C.M.R. § 51.00, *et seq.* During the survey, you reviewed a number of issues, including site access, parking, entrance, and building interior. At the time you conducted the survey, this location required changes to be fully compliant with the regulations governing accessibility of polling places.

As of yesterday, June 1, 2021, you emailed me photos of the newly installed two sets of round handrails on the ramp and after a thorough review of your original survey and the new photos of the ramp handrails, it appears that this proposed polling place is fully compliant with the regulations governing accessibility of polling places.

Please let me know if you have any questions or you need further assistance and thank you for ensuring that this proposed polling place in Malden is accessible for all voters.

-Bridget

Bridget Simmons Murphy
Project Manager
Elections Division
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts William Francis Galvin
bridget.murphy@sec.state.ma.us