

## Voting Rights for the Disabled and Elderly

California has a tradition of being sensitive to the needs of voters who are elderly or disabled. California has many laws and programs to ensure that you have access to all phases of our democratic system.

**CURBSIDE VOTING:** If a polling place is not accessible, you may approach as near as possible to the voting area and request *curbside voting*. Elections officials will bring you the voting materials, whether you are actually at a curb, in a car, or otherwise located outside the polls.

**STATE BALLOT PAMPHLET CASSETTE TAPES:** The Secretary of State produces cassette tapes of the State Ballot Pamphlet to allow blind and visually-impaired voters access to the titles and summaries, impartial analyses, and pro and con ballot measure arguments and rebuttals. These audio voters' handbooks are available at no cost to you by calling 1.800.345.VOTE.

**ASSISTANCE IN VOTING:** If you are unable to mark your ballot yourself, you may choose up to two people to help you cast your vote. The persons may not be your employer or your employer's agent, or your labor union leader or agent.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRECINCTS:** California has a policy of limiting precincts to 1,000 registered voters. By locating a polling place in every neighborhood, persons who cannot travel far from home or who are reluctant to venture into unfamiliar neighborhoods are able to vote with comfort and security.

**SAMPLE BALLOT DESIGNATIONS:** Mailed to each registered voter, all sample ballots contain a symbol, which is usually located on the back cover next to the address of your assigned polling place, that indicates whether your polling place is accessible to the disabled. If your polling place is not accessible, you may request to be assigned to another polling place that is accessible. You need only to call your county elections office.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Federal law requires voting booths and election materials to be easily used by elderly or disabled voters. In addition, state guidelines promote accessibility for persons who are elderly, or hearing, vision or mobility impaired.