

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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*Ref: Meeting Number 09/18
Decision Number 06/2018*

DECISION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission has resolved the following:

1. In accordance with section 3(1)(h) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission approves the attached Procedures on Voting by persons with Disability for the 2018 General Election.

Dated this 06th day of August, 2018.



SURESH CHANDRA

Chairperson of the Electoral Commission

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Voting by Persons with Disability

1. What is disability?

Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states:

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

2. Proper Terms of Addressing Persons with Disabilities:

Say:	Do <u>NOT</u> Say:
People with disabilities	Special needs, PWD, handicapped
Wheelchair user	Confined to a wheelchair, crippled, bed ridden
Physical disability	Crippled, abnormal, handicapped
Hearing impaired	Deaf
Speech impaired	Dumb
Visually impaired	Blind
Psychosocial disability	Mentally retarded, mentally challenged, mad, stupid, idiot, nut, off, snap

3. Types of Disabilities

3.1 Physical Disability

A physical disability is a limitation on a persons physical mobility. Examples of physical disabilities includes wheelchair user or those that use other mobility devices.

If the Presiding Officer notice a person with physical disabilities entering their Polling Station alone, they will ask them if they need assistance. If so, the Presiding Officer together with their Assistant Presiding Officer or any other Polling Day Worker can assist the Voter.

However, if the Voter prefers to be assisted by a person of their choice, the Presiding Officer will request the person providing assistance to show their VoterCard to confirm that they are a registered Voter. The person providing assistance should not provide assistance to more than two (2) Voters per Polling Station.

If they are not, the Presiding Officer will advise the Voter that the person of their choice is not a registered Voter and will not be allowed to provide assistance. Instead, only the Presiding Officer and their Assistant Presiding Officer or any other Polling Day Worker will be providing assistance.

The Presiding Officer will write the name and Voter number of every assisted Voter on section 2.9 "Assisted Voters Details" in the Presiding Officer Record Book and ensure that they write down the type of assistances provided.

But, if the person providing assistance is confirmed to be a registered Voter, the Presiding Officer will allow them to provide assistance and this will be witnessed by the Presiding Officer and details of assistance will be recorded on section 2.9 "Assisted Voters Details" in the Presiding Officer Record Book.

Voters who do not require assistance can continue with the voting process.

