

County to improve voting sites for disabled

Board of Elections asked to determine what changes are needed to comply with ADA

By Elie Anidjar
Special to The Examiner

The Montgomery County Management and Fiscal Policy Committee has asked the Board of Elections to review 28 county polling sites and determine what changes are necessary to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The changes could be in place in time for the primary elections in September and general elections in November.

The committee said not all private sites are willing to comply with ADA standards.

"We might not be able to achieve all we want because of the problem of private facilities; but every effort is made to make progress in this direction before the election,"

said County Council Vice President Marilyn Praisner.

Paul Valette, manager of elections operations, said six sites around the county would have to be extensively renovated, including the United Methodist Church in Bethesda and the Rocking Horse Road Center, where steep ramps and stairs do not provide access. The committee is seeking alternative sites.

The other 22 sites listed by the committee will need only minor renovations.

"It should not be difficult for people with disabilities to vote, because this will discourage voting," said Council Member Phil Andrews.



Praisner



Andrews