

# HB 449

Sponsored by Representative Matthew Willard



## Protect & Expand Voting Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Voting is a foundational right that should be accessible to all people. In Louisiana, voters face a variety of challenges to cast their vote, **but people with disabilities may face additional challenges voting in person or voting by mail.**

**This legislation seeks to protect and expand voting opportunities for people with disabilities through the leadership of voters with disabilities and greater oversight and education about accessibility laws.**

According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 1.1 million Louisiana adults live with a disability, which equals 1 in 3 (33%) of adults in the state.

**This bill would ensure that election administration in Louisiana is informed by the expertise of voters with disabilities, who would be centered in oversight and solutions.**

### This legislation would:

- ✓ Require the Louisiana Secretary of State to appoint an **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Officer** to conduct and issue a biannual accessibility audit and share their findings.
- ✓ **Create a Voting Accessibility Advisory Group** within the Department of State that would be made up of 7 members with a diversity of accessibility needs to provide input into voting accessibility.
- ✓ **Improve the election commissioner training**, specifically related to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by:
  - ✓ improving accessibility in voting systems
  - ✓ creating publications of best practices related to accessible voting for local election officials
  - ✓ revising and improving the department's publications and postings at voting locations
  - ✓ increase accessibility of information on the state department's website

For more info  
on HB 449

