Online Supplemental Material for

Obstacles to electoral participation as experienced by individuals with intellectual disabilities

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Contents

List A: Difficulties reported by the participants in facilitators' reports 2

A1: Making the decision. 2

A2: Getting to the polling station. 5

A3: At the polling station. 5

A4: Lack of reasons 6

A5: Experienced legal barriers 6

A6: Other difficulties (including difficulties that might fit within several categories). 7

Table 1. Descriptive statistics 9

Figure 1. Age groups in sample 10

Figure 2. Share of respondents having experienced categories of difficulties 11

Table 2. Linear probability model of having experinced categories of difficulties 12

Table 3. Indices for experienced difficulties in voting regressed on background variables. 13

List A: Difficulties reported by the participants in facilitators' reports

A1: Making the decision.

- That they had not decided yet and that it was difficult to know what to choose.
- If you don't like everything the party stands for, how do you vote?
- If you don't like the person at the top of the list, how do you vote?
- The participants think that the parties smear others more than telling what their own party wants to achieve and what their manifesto is.
- That parties are unclear about what and how.
- My assessment is that several participants have difficulty understanding the concept of 'party' and that there are other than known party leaders who represent the same views.
- It is difficult to listen to politicians because they sound 'annoyed' and it is difficult to understand what they mean. This makes it difficult for the participants to take a stand.
- One participant says that they have never heard or seen the party leaders other than on the election posters and in the study circle, and that it is difficult to understand what they want.
- Difficult to choose.
- Difficult to know what the parties want.
- Not knowing what exactly the different parties want.
- Difficult to find information about what to vote for.
- Difficult to decide, and difficult to know what the different parties think.
- Difficult to choose.
- Participants feel that politicians do not keep their promises.
- Understand what they say - the politicians.
- It was too difficult to understand and follow what the politicians really meant.

- That it is difficult to understand what the politicians actually think and difficult to make up your mind.
- They found it difficult to distinguish what the different parties thought on different issues. It was mentioned, for example, that several parties wanted a lot of money to be invested in the police, but what that meant in concrete terms was difficult to understand when most of them said the same thing. So how can you tell them apart?
- We talked about how they had seen different politicians on social media and TV during the week and that it was difficult to understand what they actually meant.
- Politics is difficult to understand. difficult to choose a party.
- Difficult to know which party to vote for.
- Most of the participants find it difficult to decide which party because many of them are quite similar on several issues.
- Many parties are quite similar on the issues that participants thought were most important.
- Difficult to decide which party fits with the views.
- Most parties think very similarly, difficult to know which one to vote for.
- Participants find it difficult to find the party they intend to vote for because all parties have some good opinions.
- Difficult to take a position because many parties think quite similarly on the issues that the circle participants find the most interesting, security (police, military, NATO), health care and the environment.
- Many parties think alike, hard to know how they want to get there.
- It's hard to know what the different parties want to do and how to know that it will do what they have said.

- When your different values/issues are found in parties that are far apart, it becomes difficult to know what to vote for.
- The obstacle is mostly that what you think about different issues ends up in different parties, which makes it harder to know where to cast your vote.
- It is difficult to decide, you think that several parties have good policies, which makes the choice more difficult.
- It is difficult to know what different parties want.
- It is difficult when you cannot read or write.
- It is difficult to choose a party because many have good ideas and in easy-to-read information, the parties' views do not seem to differ much.
- Difficult to find up-to-date information in easy-to-read formats from the parties.
- Difficult to find easy-to-read information about what politicians want, especially on local issues
- Not knowing what politicians want. Everyone comes up with similar values. How do you sift through them? How can you trust them to keep their election promises?
- That you don't know what the parties think, or that you don't agree with the parliamentary parties.
- The participants keep saying that the information from politicians is difficult to understand.
- That the politicians they meet locally do not know LSS issues.
- Not knowing what politicians are talking about
- Difficult to understand what politicians say
- Difficult to understand what is written on all the documents
- Not being able to meet politicians ‘for real’
- Even the parties they don't like say some good things

- Politicians always talk around so you don't understand what they say and they say things that are not true.
- Finding accessible information in an easy-to-read format about what the parties think
- Difficult to find out who thinks what and then apply this to the different elections

A2: Getting to the polling station.

- Uncertainty about going to the polling station by yourself.
- Some uncertainty about going to the polling station on election day emerged and several said they would vote early.
- One participant mentioned that they did not know how to get to the polling station on election day.
- Someone asked if they could bring someone from their home with them on election day because they were unsure.
- Need to be accompanied to the polling station.

A3: At the polling station.

- That they were afraid of making a fool of themselves in the polling station.
- Difficult to tell the difference on ballot papers.
- Difficult to put in the right ballot papers.
- That it is difficult with ballot papers and envelopes. Not putting all the ballot papers in the same envelope.
- One person mentioned that it was difficult if they had to go to the polling station themselves due to reading difficulties and fear of making mistakes.
- One participant felt that the voting process itself was stressful and that others were waiting to get to the booth.

- They didn't want to vote on election day, as they felt it could get messy with lots of people.
- They do not know how to get help to or in the polling station. They know that the authorities are obliged to assist, but not how to claim this right.
- Voting - nervousness about the polling station, e.g. it is a stressful environment.
- When I voted last time, I felt so stupid because I didn't know what to do.
- Physical barriers, no ramp to the polling station.
- They agreed that without personal support it was difficult to vote.
- It's hard to know what to do when you vote.

A4: Lack of reasons

- Unwillingness to vote.
- Participants feel that politicians do not keep their promises.
- They felt that politicians did not listen to them, or the rest of the people.
- Politicians cannot be trusted so everyone will change their mind after the election anyway.
- Not being listened to.

A5: Experienced legal barriers

- They didn't know that it was originally only men who could vote and were worried that this was still the case. The fact that Sweden has universal and equal suffrage was a concept that was difficult to understand what it actually meant, not obviously that it meant that all Swedish citizens over the age of 18 can vote and that everyone's vote is equally valuable.
- One participant said he hadn't received his voting card.

- One participant told of a person whose fiduciary had told them they could not vote, and someone who had their voting card torn.
- No voting card was received by one participant last election
- Voting card to the fiduciary.
- That person had not received a voting card.
- They didn't have a voting card sent to them.

A6: Other difficulties (including difficulties that might fit within several categories).

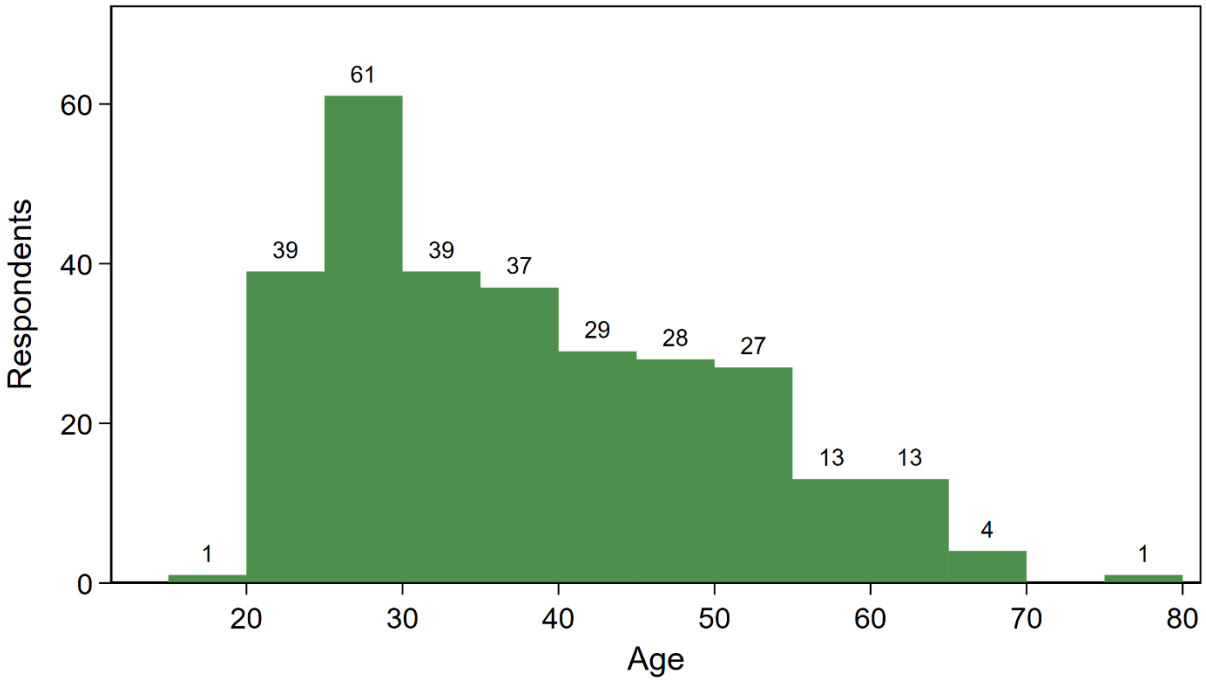
- Do not have an ID card
- No ID card
- Expired ID card
- Not everyone knew if they had an ID card/ID document
- Lack valid ID document
- One participant cannot sort, everything is too messy.
- They don't know how to do it.
- Difficult to understand.
- Not understanding what it is about.
- Information in easy-to-read language.
- It is difficult when you cannot read or write.
- Not informed.
- That they did not feel informed.
- Difficult to find information, difficult language.
- Obstacle of not knowing.
- Difficulty getting simple information.
- Difficult when you don't know.

- Difficult to understand what is written on all the documents.
- Not understanding.
- Never having the courage to ask.
- Difficult to understand the words.
- Not knowing is a big obstacle
- Not being able to
- Missing information
- Many difficult words
- Not receiving information that you understand
- Not understanding/Not knowing.
- Lack of information in easy-to-read language
- The fact that parents or friends could express opinions about politics and voting that some participants found difficult to resist.
- One participant described that parents tried to decide and that they wanted to speak out.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics

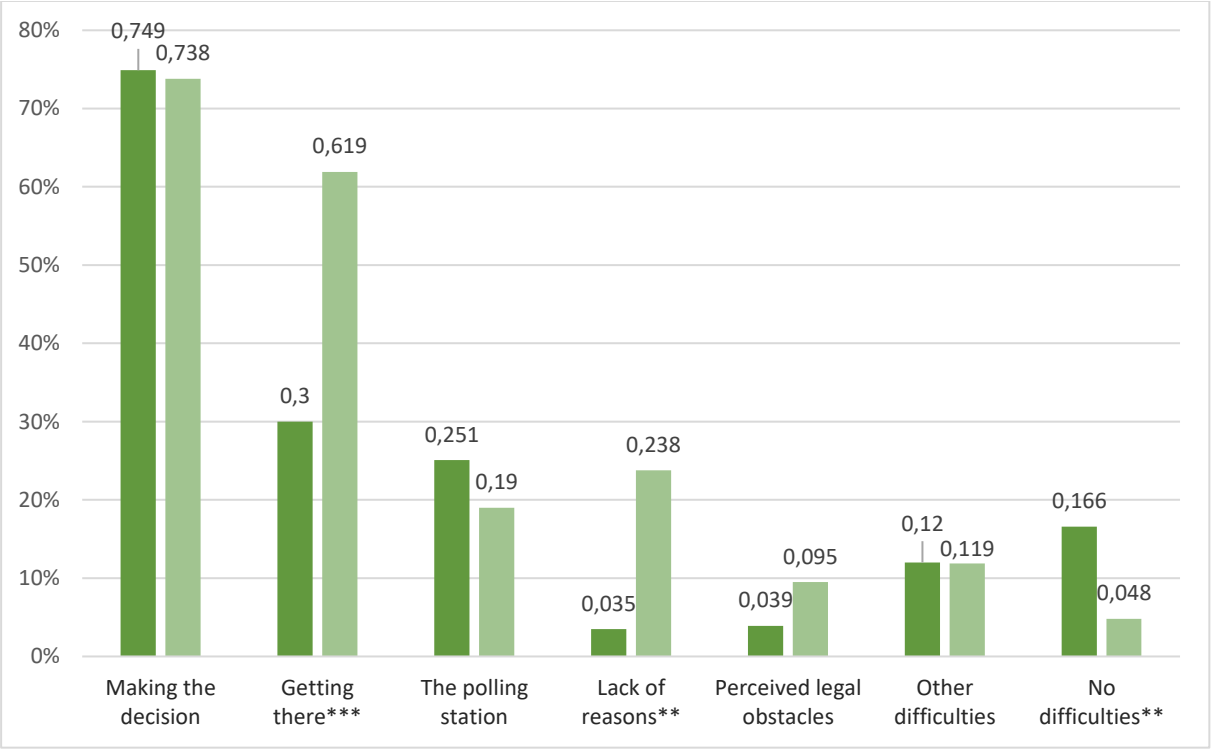
	N	Mean or share	SD	Min	Max
Age (years)	292	38	12	19	79
Sex (share female)	299	38 %		0	1
Native (share born in Sweden)	298	88 %		0	1
Housing					
Group home	295	52 %		0	1
Own apartment or house and not in other home	295	30 %		0	1
With parents and not in other home	295	16 %		0	1
Employment status					
Activity center	295	93 %		0	1
Pension, disability pension, sickness benefit, or sick leave	295	27 %		0	1
Studies	294	8 %		0	1
Work outside of activity center	295	7 %		0	1
Reading ability					
1 Almost cannot read at all–5 I can read very well	259	3.6	1.3	1	5
Difficulties					
Number of indicated, listed difficulties	287	3.7	2.7	0	12
Neuropsychiatric difficulties	288	76 %		0	1
Language difficulties	288	61 %		0	1
Intellectual difficulties	288	47 %		0	1
Help in everyday life					
I can manage on my own	296	23 %		0	1
Help from family	296	53 %		0	1
Help from friends and colleagues	296	33 %		0	1
Help from fiduciary, trustee, or contact person	296	62 %		0	1
Help from employees at group home	296	58 %		0	1

Figure 1. Age groups in sample



Note: N=292

Figure 2. Share of respondents having experienced categories of difficulties



Note: Dark green refers to voters and light green to non-voters. "No difficulties" indicates that the respondent both ticked a box for not having experienced any difficulties and that the respondent did not tick a box for having experienced any of the listed obstacles. The differences between voters and non-voters are statistically significant as regards probalility of difficulties related to getting to a polling station ($p < 0.001$), perceived lack of reasons to vote ($p = 0.003$), and indicating no difficulties ($p = 0.007$).

Table 2. Linear probability model of having experinced categories of difficulties

	Making the decision	Getting there	Polling station	Lack of reasons	Perceived legal obstacles	Other difficulty	No difficulty
Voted (Yes=1)	0.011	-0.319***	0.060	-0.203**	-0.056	0.001	0.118**
	(0.067)	(0.087)	(0.064)	(0.065)	(0.046)	(0.054)	(0.043)
Constant	0.738***	0.619***	0.190**	0.238***	0.095*	0.119*	0.048
	(0.063)	(0.084)	(0.058)	(0.064)	(0.045)	(0.049)	(0.044)

Note: The entries are unstandardized OLS-regression coefficients. Standard errors clustered on study circles in parentheses. + p<0.10, * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001.

Table 3. Indices for experienced difficulties in voting regressed on background variables.

	Making the decision	Getting there	Polling station	Lack of reasons	Perceived legal obst.
Difficulties and abilities					
Intellectual difficulties (index)	0.201***	0.108+	0.080	0.049	0.080
	(0.059)	(0.058)	(0.069)	(0.074)	(0.068)
Neuropsychiatric difficulties (index)	0.170**	0.058	0.150*	0.085	0.051
	(0.056)	(0.052)	(0.072)	(0.064)	(0.062)
Difficulties with language (index)	0.184**	0.195*	0.155*	0.072	0.125+
	(0.063)	(0.075)	(0.075)	(0.067)	(0.072)
Number of difficulties (0–12)	0.232***	0.156**	0.189*	0.106	0.105
	(0.058)	(0.058)	(0.086)	(0.077)	(0.078)
Reading ability (1–5)	-0.192**	-0.107	-0.061	-0.136+	-0.043
	(0.056)	(0.071)	(0.075)	(0.075)	(0.096)
Help in everyday life					
Can manage without help	-0.063	-0.114**	-0.029	0.038	-0.048
	(0.064)	(0.043)	(0.062)	(0.058)	(0.043)
Receives help from the family	0.022	0.080	0.124*	-0.030	0.011
	(0.051)	(0.055)	(0.055)	(0.047)	(0.056)
Receives help from friends	0.064	0.202**	0.122+	0.042	0.073
	(0.064)	(0.065)	(0.065)	(0.060)	(0.064)
Receives help from someone appointed	0.145*	0.151*	0.052	0.071	-0.023
	(0.059)	(0.062)	(0.060)	(0.057)	(0.057)
Receives help from employees at group/service home	0.051	0.023	-0.063	-0.054	-0.085
	(0.061)	(0.060)	(0.057)	(0.060)	(0.061)
Occupation					
Studies or has other work than at activity center	0.013	0.054	0.059	-0.012	0.067
	(0.071)	(0.061)	(0.048)	(0.049)	(0.064)
Housing					
In their own apartment or house	0.002	-0.026	0.057	0.058	-0.002
	(0.049)	(0.055)	(0.066)	(0.053)	(0.051)
At a group home or service home	0.046	0.019	-0.078	-0.081+	-0.023
	(0.056)	(0.055)	(0.062)	(0.047)	(0.060)
With parents and in no other kind of home	-0.049	0.013	0.047	0.044	0.040
	(0.064)	(0.060)	(0.063)	(0.066)	(0.075)
Demographic variables					
Female	0.035	0.006	0.007	-0.005	0.037
	(0.058)	(0.056)	(0.061)	(0.060)	(0.059)
Born in Sweden	-0.034	0.042	-0.011	-0.042	0.000
	(0.065)	(0.054)	(0.062)	(0.063)	(0.068)
Age (years)	0.117+	0.042	-0.041	-0.010	0.021
	(0.070)	(0.058)	(0.047)	(0.048)	(0.049)

Note: The entries are standardized OLS-regression coefficients. Standard errors clustered on study circles in parentheses. + p<0.10, * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001.