What you can demand

- Political parties to include disability concerns in their manifestos.
- Your local candidates to make clear promises on how they intend to address the concerns of persons with disabilities.
- Political parties to provide campaign material and information about their events using a variety of media and formats such as audio, video, sign language, Large Print and Braille, to reach the maximum number of people with all types of disabilities.
- Political parties to ensure that campaign meetings are held in accessible venues.
- Assistance in voting at the polling station by a companion for people with a visual impairment or physical disability.
- Polling officials to provide you with any other reasonable accommodation to cast your vote.
- Election results to be made available in accessible formats such as sign language in Television and large print.

How you can get engaged

- Find out which of the political parties/potential candidates are reaching out to and listening to persons with disabilities.
- Read the election manifestos to understand what each party promises for the community you represent, and ask questions.
- Get involved with the campaign of a party/potential candidate who welcomes you and is ready to accommodate you.
- Inquire with your Grama Niladhari if you would have accessible facilities at your polling station.
- Spread the message to other people with disabilities regarding their right to vote and the facilities available.
- Offer your services voluntarily to an election monitoring body.

For more information, please see
https://www.facebook.com/enabledelections?fref=ts
Sri Lanka as a country is looking forward to establishing true democratic principles in governance. A free and fair election is a fundamental requirement in building this democratic state. Equal opportunities for each and every citizen to participate in the election, giving true meaning to the concept of “one person, one vote” will enable all citizens to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Elections are an opportunity for persons with disabilities to participate in the process of shaping their future. Available statistics reveal that 1.7 million persons with disabilities live in Sri Lanka, out of which a significant number of people are eligible to vote. The elderly population of Sri Lanka reached 12% in 2012 and continues to grow every year; a significant majority of them would have some kind of disability. Together, they constitute a potentially powerful voter base that can be a decisive factor in the formation of a new Government.

What you need to know

If you are a person over 18 years of age and have registered yourself to vote, you have the same right as any other citizen to take part in the electoral process.

In order to ensure that you can effectively exercise this right as a person with a disability on polling day, the Elections Commissioner had communicated the following directives to all Assistant Commissioners of Elections at the District level:

• To allocate the most easily accessible locations as polling booths.
• To remove all barriers in polling stations and make them accessible for persons with disabilities.
• To make three wheelers or motor bikes available for persons with disabilities to reach the polling station from the gate.
• To collect information on the special requirements of each person with a disability through Grama Niladharis.

In addition:

If you are a person with a physical disability and you are unable to get to the polling station by foot or public transport you can apply for a vehicle from the Returning Officer of your Electoral District, or you can ask someone else to apply on your behalf. It is recommended that the application is accompanied by a Medical Certificate attesting to the inability to travel as required, issued from Government medical practitioners (both Western and Ayurvedic). This application should reach the Returning Officer by 9th August. Applications can be downloaded from the Department of Elections website, and is also available with your Grama Niladhari and at the District Secretariats.

If you are a person with a visual impairment or a physical disability, then, according to the Elections (Special Provisions) Act No. 28 of 2011, you may be accompanied by a person of your choice into the voting booth who can assist you to mark the ballot paper as directed by you and place it in the ballot box. This has to take place in the presence of the presiding officer and another member of his polling staff. The person accompanying you has to attest in a Certificate of Eligibility that he/she is above 18 years of age, not disabled, and not a member of the polling staff. Apart from this it is up to you to choose someone who you can trust to accompany you at all stages of the voting process, to follow your