ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

Your ref	Our ref	Date
	25/4023-2	5 November 2025

Inputs to the thematic report to the 61st session of the Human Rights Council

We refer to the call for inputs from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities for the forthcoming thematic report to be presented at the 61st session of the Human Rights Council. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to this initiative.

With regard to the information and comments requested on the specific issues outlined in the letter, we would like to note the following:

Existing data as well as monitoring and data collection tools on the level of political representation of persons with disabilities within local and national elected bodies

All municipalities and county authorities in Norway are required to have advisory councils for persons with disabilities. The role of these councils is to provide input to the municipal council or county council on matters that affect persons with disabilities at the local and regional level.

Norwegian authorities do not maintain registers or comprehensive overviews of elected representatives in local or regional elected bodies. Statistics Norway (SSB) produces annual statistics on gender distribution among elected representatives in local or regional elected bodies. Information about disabilities will often be considered sensitive data that requires a specific legal basis for processing under the GDPR. It will not be possible to create such overviews.

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Legal restrictions on running in elections or holding public office based on disability, including for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and specific examples of such legislation and policies

Persons who are eligible to vote at parliamentary elections and who are not disqualified from elections pursuant to Section 3-3 are eligible for election to the Parliament, according to the Election Act Section 3-1.

The right to vote is not conditional on an individual's functional, intellectual, or psychological abilities. A previous legal basis in the Constitution for enacting legislation that requires individuals to meet mental or cognitive criteria in order to hold or exercise the right to vote, was repealed in 2022, cf. former § 50(3) of the Constitution.

A person may be disqualified from election due to their position, cf. Section 3-3 of the Election Act. There are no other legal restrictions on eligibility for parliamentary or local government elections, including no legal restrictions based on disability.

Additional information and comments
In addition to the specific issues referred to in the Special Rapporteur's letter, we wish to note that participation in political life for voters with disabilities has been strengthened through several legal measures:

- Consultations are held with organisations of persons with disabilities in the process of legislative drafting, and in preparation and evaluation of the conduct of elections.

- Legal measures have been adopted to ensure that polling stations are universally designed, and that all voters are able to enter the polling stations unassisted, cf. Section 6-7 of the Election Act.

- Specific technical building requirements are set out in Section 6-2 of the Election Regulations, including specifications on the use of ramps, tables for stamping ballot papers, ballot boxes, universally designed voting booths, and ballot paper shelves labelled in Braille. In addition, the ballot paper must be printed in Braille, cf. Section 3-4, Paragraph six of the Regulations. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has developed a guide on universal design of polling stations and voting equipment. In addition, the Directorate of Elections provides both written and in-person guidance on practical methods for meeting the legal requirements.

- Subsidies for information measures during elections. The purpose is to support measures for groups with low voter turnout such as voters with special information needs.

Yours sincerely

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Higher Executive Officer

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