**Resolution 2021-06**

**Regarding the Availability of Municipal Government Documents and Other Written Material in Alternative Formats**

WHEREAS, Ohio has 88 county governments; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has 2,246 municipal governments that include 938 city and village governments, and 1,308 township governments; and

WHEREAS, county and municipal governments regularly produce numerous documents that contain information important for residents to have access to; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) says that public entities must ensure that their communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice’s Title II Technical Assistance Manual says that the ADA’s effective communications requirement means that, when a public entity provides information in written form, it must, when requested, make that information available to individuals with vision impairments in a form that is usable by them; and

WHEREAS, of the 10 largest cities in Ohio, only 20% (i.e. 2) websites provided any reasonable accommodation information on their home pages or within their first level of website menus, and only one, the City of Toledo, specifically referred to the availability of documents in alternative formats: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in Convention assembled this sixth day of November, 2021, that the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio call upon the Ohio Municipal League, the Mayors Association of Ohio, the Ohio City & County Management Association, and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio to work with the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to educate county and municipal governments regarding the ADA’s requirements for providing written documents in alternative formats and regarding the importance of ensuring that instructions on how to request documents in alternative formats be easily located on the entities’ websites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio call upon all counties and municipalities in Ohio to provide written documents in alternative formats as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio call upon all counties and municipalities in Ohio to provide clearly identified instructions regarding how blind and low vision individuals can request documents in alternative formats on their website homepage.