

POLL WATCHERS
FOR
PRIMARY ELECTIONS

1. The County Board of Elections is responsible for and has jurisdiction over the conduct of primaries and elections in the County.
2. All elections shall be conducted in each election district (polling place) by the district election board consisting of a judge of election, a majority inspector of election and a minority inspector of election, assisted by clerks and machine inspectors in certain cases.
3. The judge of elections in each election district is responsible for enforcing the regulations at polling places.
4. For each primary election the Board of Elections shall issue **County sealed certificates** to each poll watcher stating his name and the name of the candidate he/she represents.

Poll watchers must be qualified registered electors of the county in which the election district for which the poll watcher is appointed is located. Each appointed poll watcher shall be authorized to serve in the election district for which the poll watcher was appointed, **and**, when the poll watcher is not serving the election district for which the poll watcher was appointed, in any other election district in the county in which the poll watcher is a qualified registered elector.

Poll watchers shall be required to show their certificates at any time when requested to do so by any election officer. Poll watchers are not required to turn over their certificate. **Watcher certificates must have the County seal imprinted on them.**

5. Each polling place shall consist of a single room, every part of which shall be within the unobstructed view of those present. Poll watchers shall be situated in the polling place in such a manor as to allow them full view of the entire polling place and within a distance to reasonably hear electors' names when announced by the election officer.

The Board of Elections is not required to provide poll watchers with tables, chairs or other supplies.

6. Poll watchers for candidates:

Each candidate for election at any primary shall be entitled to appoint two watchers for each election district in which the candidate appears on the ballot.

Only one watcher for each candidate at any primary shall be present in the polling place at any one time from the time that the election officers meet prior to the opening of the polls and until the close of the polls.

7. **Political parties and political bodies are not permitted to appoint poll watchers at any primary election.**

8. No poll watcher shall be allowed within the "enclosed space" (enclosed space shall consist of the six feet surrounding the space set aside for voting, consisting of the ballot box, voting booths, compartments, etc.) of the polling place at any time except for the purpose of casting their vote.

9. Number of poll watchers at any primary election permitted to be in a polling place while polls are open:

Each candidate may have one poll watcher present at a time. **Political parties and political bodies are not permitted to have any watchers present at any time during any primary election.**

10. Number of poll watchers permitted after the close of the polls:

Both poll watchers for each candidate may be present in the polling place, outside the enclosed space, after the polls close and while the ballots are being counted at any primary election (2 for each candidate on the ballot).

11. Poll watchers may:

- Keep a list of voters
- Challenge any person making application to vote and to require proof of his qualifications
- Have the opportunity to observe the election process and hear the voter's names as they are called out
- Compare voter names to names on their street list
- Observe and report on the vote counting process
- Upon request to the Judge of Elections **during those intervals when voters are not present in the polling place either voting or waiting to vote**, may inspect the voting check list and either of the two numbered lists of voters maintained by the County Board: Provided, that the poll watcher shall not mark upon or alter these official election records. Election workers, not watchers, are to compare signatures and inspect the voting check list, except during those intervals when voters are not present in the polling place either voting or waiting to voted, (The Judge of Elections shall supervise or delegate the inspection of any requested documents).

12. Challenges:

Should a poll watcher challenge a voter as to his identity or residence, the voter shall produce at least one qualified elector of the election district as a witness, who shall make affidavit of his identity or continued residence in the election district. (See attached Challenges—Elector's Affidavit)

Should a poll watcher challenge the ballot of an absentee elector based on the elector's qualifications or ability to be physically present at the poll on Election Day the poll watcher shall deposit the sum of \$10.00 with the local election board. The election board shall mark "challenged" on the envelope together with the reason(s) therefore and the ballot shall be set aside for return to the County Board of Elections unopened pending decision by the County Board and shall not be counted.

13. Poll watchers may not:

- Participate in partisan political activity, including discussing the election, candidates, or a political party/body with any other person
- Campaign in any form or fashion
- Wear any clothing item, hat, button, accessory, etc. that supports a candidate or political party/body
- Assist voters in the voting process (except when requested by voter who is entitled to receive assistance in voting)
- Interfere with the voting process
- Enter the enclosed area of the polling place that contains the ballot box, voting machines/compartments/booths
- Accept payment in excess of one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120.00) per day of service as a poll watcher