

## **POLL WATCHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A poll watcher may be:

- 1) A candidate in person, but only during the counting and tabulation of ballots and the processing of absentee ballots;
- 2) An authorized representative of a candidate;
- 3) An authorized representative of a group seeking the passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot; or
- 4) An authorized representative of a party with a candidate on the ballot or seeking passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot.

Official recognition of poll watchers:

- 1) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location or area within a polling site, early voting site, vote center, or alternative site where voters identify themselves to election officials;
- 2) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate, group, or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at each location or area within the absentee ballot processing site where absentee ballots are processed; and
- 3) Only one (1) authorized poll watcher per candidate or party at any one (1) given time may be officially recognized as a poll watcher at the counting of the ballots.

Poll watcher credentials:

- 1) Except for candidates in person, poll watchers must present a valid affidavit in the form of a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" to an election official immediately upon entering the polling or counting location.
- 2) Candidates in person attending a counting site or absentee ballot processing site are not required to present a "Poll Watcher Authorization Form" but must present some form of identification to an election official immediately upon entering the site for the purpose of confirming the poll watcher as a candidate on the ballot.

Poll watchers may:

- 1) Observe the election officials or designees;
- 2) Stand close enough to the place where voters check in to vote so as to hear the voter's name;
- 3) Compile lists of persons voting;
- 4) Challenge ballots upon notification to an election official before the voter signs the precinct voter registration list and upon completing a "Challenged Ballot Form";
- 5) Call to the attention of the election sheriff any occurrence believed to be an irregularity or violation of election law. The poll watcher may not discuss the occurrence unless the election sheriff invites the discussion; and
- 6) Be present at the opening, processing, duplication, and canvassing of absentee ballots for the purpose of challenging absentee votes in the manner provided by law for personal voting challenges.

Poll watchers representing a candidate or political party may:

- 1) Remain at the polling site after the poll closes if ballots are counted at the poll;
- 2) Be present at the counting of votes by hand or by an electronic vote tabulating device at a central location;
- 3) Be present at the counting of absentee ballots for the purpose of witnessing the counting of ballots by election officials and determining whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted; and
- 4) Upon request made to an election official, inspect any or all ballots at the time the ballots are being counted.

Poll watchers may not:

- 1) Be within six feet (6') of any voting machine or booth used by voters to cast their ballot;
- 2) Speak to any voter or in any way attempt to influence a voter inside the polling site or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling site; or
- 3) Disrupt the orderly conduct of the election.