

Code of Conduct for Poll Watchers and Observers

This document is supplemental to the rules for Poll Watchers and Observers outlined in the Poll Manager's Handbook.

Poll Watchers and Observers Must:

- Show a valid photo ID to the Clerk and/or Poll Manager on duty upon arrival.
- Remain in the designated area for either watchers or observers.
- Follow the direction of the Clerk and Poll Managers.

Poll Watchers must present an official letter from the candidate or party, as the case may be, designating them as such and listing the precinct(s) for which they may be assigned and wear a badge as required by law.

Any Poll Watcher or Observer who refuses to abide by this Code of Conduct will not be allowed to remain in the polling place. If any person refuses to leave when asked, assistance should be requested from law enforcement.

Poll Watchers and Observers May:

- Observe the election processes, including the opening and closing processes at the polling place.
- Observe the election processes during the early voting period at an early voting center.
- Obtain information from the Clerk, or designated Poll Manager, about how many people have voted and who has voted but only when the EPB station is not being used to check-in voters. Lists will not be provided.
- Make notes while observing the election processes.
- Ask questions of the Clerk, or designated Poll Manager, if the questions do not interfere with the conduct of any part of the election process. If a poll watcher/observer disagrees with the Clerk or designated Poll Manager, or needs more information, they should step outside and contact the county elections office for clarification.

Poll Watchers and Observers May NOT:

- Interfere with the conduct of the election.
- Take pictures or video inside the polling place, except for the zero and results tapes once posted. See section on "Cell Phones and Electronic Devices" in Poll Manager's Handbook.
- Physically handle or touch any voting materials or equipment.
- Move or rearrange tables, chairs, or voting booths at the polling place or early voting center.
- Sit at or hover around official worktables or view confidential voter information on any computer terminal, EPB, or document.
- Communicate directly with voters inside of a polling place or an early voting center.
- Display any political material, including slogans, or wear campaign badges, buttons, or apparel.
- Wear any uniform resembling that of law enforcement officers or military personnel.
- Have a firearm, knife, or other weapon within a polling place or early voting center.
- Talk to any election worker who is not the Clerk or designated Poll Manager.
- Tell a Clerk or Poll Manager how to conduct their duties.
- Argue with any election workers or voters.
- Make physical contact with election personnel or voters.
- Verbally harass or intimidate election workers, voters, or other persons in the polling place.
- Assist in operations at any polling place.
- Prevent other observers from observing materials or a process.

Violations of this Code of Conduct will result in dismissal from the polling location for the duration of the election. The authority for such determination rests solely with the Clerk and, when necessary, the county elections office.

Canvassing the Vote

After the polls close, poll watchers and observers can remain in the polling place to observe the canvassing process. The Clerk may establish a new designated area for watchers and observers to allow for the viewing of the closing process. Poll watchers and observers must remain in a designated observation area during this time apart from viewing the results tape once it is posted publicly. Watchers and observers may take a picture of the results tape once it is posted. Watchers and observers will be dismissed from the polling place after the results tapes have been printed, signed, and posted AND the ballot boxes have been locked and sealed.