

2 MONITORING VISITORS AT THE POLLING PLACE

This chapter explains who is allowed at the polling place and what kind of credential or special paperwork they need to show the Judges and Coordinator.

VISITORS AT THE POLLING PLACE

Monitoring visitors on Election Day is an important responsibility of the Election Judges and Coordinators.

As an Election Judge or Coordinator, it is important that you are aware of who is in the polling place at all times. It is your responsibility to make sure that everyone at the polling place has the right to be there.

Voters, while registering at the polling place or voting, are allowed in the polling place without any type of credential. Anyone else must have a credential or letter of authority to enter and stay inside the polling place.

Board of Elections Field Investigators or Agents

Field Investigators and other agents are representatives of the Board of Elections (Board). Board Field Investigators have an official credential to show Election Judges. Field Investigators keep this credential. They do not give it to the Judges. However, if a Field Investigator handles election materials, then they must give a letter of authority from the Board to the Judges. The Judges must return the letter of authority to the Board in Envelope 47E.

The Field Investigator will regularly check the polling place during the day. Other agents from the Board may appear at your polling place. All Board agents must show proper credentials to the Judges. This may include a Board ID.

The Field Investigator must sign in and out each time he or she visits the polling place. The Investigator Sign-In Sheet (Form 202) is located in Envelope 1. Please make sure the investigator completes this form. It is reviewed after the election.

Equip for Equality

Representatives from Equip for Equality will conduct inspections to ensure the polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities. They have an official credential to show Judges. They do not give it to the Judges.

Other Government Officials

Representatives from the following offices are allowed at the polling place after they show their official identification badges:

- Department of Justice
- United States Attorney's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- The Illinois Attorney General's Office
- The Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office
- The Illinois State Board of Elections

They are allowed to do the following activities:

- Enter the polling place
- View the polling place and election procedures
- Sit or stand where they can see the information on the e-poll book screen and applications for ballot

- Handle and inspect the applications for ballot, affidavits, poll watcher credentials, and voting equipment

Do government officials want to handle election materials at your precinct? Before a government official may handle materials, the government official must give the Election Judges a copy of a letter of authority from the Board with the government official's name on it. **No representative from any other offices other than those mentioned in this chapter are allowed to handle election materials.** The Judges must return the letter of authority to the Board in Envelope 47E.



Call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870 if you have any questions about who is allowed at the polling place or what activities they may carry out.

Chicago Police Officers and Other Emergency Personnel

If there is an issue with public safety, call 911 immediately. Once emergency services have been called, you must also call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870. You must let them know about any time a Chicago Police officer or any other emergency personnel are called to the polling place.

Media and Exit Pollsters

Members of the news media such as journalists have special media credentials from the Board that allow them to be in the polling place. People with these credentials may do any the following activities:

- Film activities in the polling place, as long as they do not interfere with any election processes
- Film any and all Election Judge, Election Coordinators or poll watchers
- Ask the Judges to tell them how many ballot applications have been completed
- Film voters, but the filming can not interfere with the secret ballot or voter's wishes



IMPORTANT: The media should respect any voters who ask not to be filmed.

Members of the news media and those who show exit polling credentials to the Election Judges may interview voters outside the polling place even if they are in the Campaign-Free Zone. They may also interview people inside the building as long as they are outside of the room where voting happens.

POLL WATCHERS

Who are poll watchers?

A poll watcher is a person who represents a candidate, political party, or citizens' organization or advocates for or against a question of public policy. Some examples of poll watchers include the following:

- Candidate
- Precinct Captain
- Alderman/Committeeperson
- Checker/Watcher
- Members of a campaign team

They may use these other titles for their roles, but they are all poll watchers.

What does the poll watcher need to enter the polling place?

A poll watcher must have a credential to stay in the polling place and watch. The credential is a special form from either the Chicago Board of Elections or the Illinois State Board of Elections. The credential must include all of the following information:

- Precinct and ward where the poll watcher is present
- Name and address of the poll watcher
- Signature of the poll watcher
- Signature or stamp of the Candidate, Party Chairman, or Organization Representative
- Office which the candidate is seeking or the name of the organization the person represents



Poll watchers may call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870 with questions.

All poll watchers must be registered voters in the State of Illinois. **The poll watcher must give the credential to the Judges when they enter the polling place.** The Judge will return all credentials in Envelope 47E to the Board. If poll watchers leave and return throughout the day, they do not need to bring the Judges a new credential. Poll watchers must have a separate credential for each precinct they visit though.

The following number of poll watchers are allowed in the precinct at the same time:

- Two (2) poll watchers per candidate*
*The candidate's name must appear on the ballot in the precinct where the poll watcher is present.
- One (1) poll watcher per qualified citizens' organization (There is a list of the qualified citizen organizations in the Key Judge envelope.)
- One (1) poll watcher per side (for or against) a policy question on the ballot
- One (1) poll watcher per political party

See the instructions on page 13 if you believe the polling place has become overcrowded with poll watchers.

What may poll watchers do at the polling place?

Poll watchers who have the correct credentials may stay in the polling place all day. They may sit or stand where they can see what the Judges are doing. Poll watchers are not allowed to touch any supplies or materials. They should never be so close to the Judges that they interfere with the election. Poll watchers may inform Judges about violations of the law or improper procedures they witness.

What May Poll Watchers Do?

<p>Before the polls open, poll watchers may do the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch you set up the equipment and polling place • Look over the voting equipment • View the election materials and forms, but they may not handle the election materials or voting equipment
<p>During voting hours, poll watchers may do the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be close enough to you and the other Judges to watch all your actions • View all reasonably requested records relating to the election, but they also must always maintain the secrecy of the ballot and make sure voter privacy is not affected • Hear Judges call a voter’s name, address and party (for Primary Election only) • Challenge if a person is eligible to vote • Bring questions or concerns to poll workers <p> NOTE: Poll watchers may not be within 5 feet of the ballot scanner or touchscreen unit while voters are voting. They should not be able to see voter’s choices.</p>
<p>After the polls close, poll watchers may do the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch as Judges transmit the election results • Get an official Official Results Tape from you only after you have printed the results tapes that you need to complete closing duties

Final Notes on Poll Watchers:

Poll watchers may substitute for each other during the day. The number of poll watchers in a precinct at the same time can’t be more than the number allowed for each category. Each poll watcher must still give their own credential to the Election Judges.

A majority of the Election Judges may decide that the polling place has too many poll watchers, and it interferes with managing the election. The Judges may vote to limit poll watchers to a reasonable number. However, you must allow at least one poll watcher for each candidate, political party, citizen’s organization or advocate representing both sides of a question of public policy to stay in the polling place.



Do you have questions about poll watchers on Election Day? Call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870 for help.

