

Rules for Poll Watchers

Poll Watcher Duties

A poll watcher is someone who is appointed by a candidate or a political party to observe the election day procedures in a precinct. The managers of the polling place will designate a place where watchers can remain throughout the day. Conversations between watchers and voters are not permitted within the polling place. Watchers will not be permitted to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election or influence any voter in the casting of their ballot.

Candidates and poll watchers should be permitted to look at (NOT photograph) the voter registration list in the polling place, provided that they do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, and no one is waiting in line to vote.

Qualifications

- Must be a qualified voter in the county.
- Present the poll manager with a letter signed by the candidate or by an appropriate party official stating that he/she is certified to act as a watcher in that precinct.
- Wear a badge not to exceed 4 1/4" x 4 1/4", specifying the name of the candidate or party he/she represents.

May do this:

- In a primary election, each candidate may appoint one watcher for any polling place where his/her name is on the ballot.
- In a general election, each non-partisan, petition, or announced write-in candidate may appoint one watcher for any polling place where his/her name is on the ballot.

Don't do this:

- All candidates of the same party are jointly represented at any one voting place. Do not bring more than two watchers for each 1,000 registered voters at the polling place.
- Do not take pictures or videos inside the polling place, with the exception of the zero tape and totals tape once posted.
- Do not talk to voters in the polling place.
- Do not argue with poll clerks or poll managers. Step outside to call the county office if you have additional concerns.

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every vote matters.
every vote counts.

SEC BSL 2096-202408

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To be eligible to register, you must be:
A U.S. Citizen | S.C. Resident | 18 years or older