

# Quick Guide\* Poll Watchers

### Be Prepared:

- Poll Watcher Training Certificate
- Poll Watcher Form with Appointment By:
  - o Party Chair, if that Party has a candidate on the ballot.
  - o Candidate, if that candidate is on the ballot at that location.
  - o PAC Treasurer, if that PAC is advocating for or against a ballot measure
- Texas Driver License
- Notepaper, Pen/pencil
- This Guide and the Secretary of State Handbook for Poll Watchers
- Contacts:
  - o County Elections Office
  - o County Party Headquarters
  - o State Party Headquarters

#### **Basics:**

- Dress appropriately and behave professionally. (If you go in looking for a fight, you will get one.)
- You may not leave while ballots are being counted.
- No recording devices or devices capable of Wi-Fi connection.
- No talking to voters or anyone else besides the Presiding Judge.
- You may and should take detailed notes. If you leave the Polling Place the Presiding Judge may ask you to leave your notes with the official of YOUR choosing. Be sure to include dates and times.
- You may see everything the Presiding Judge sees.

#### **Voter ID:**

- Acceptable forms of photo ID.
  - o Texas Driver License
  - o Texas Election ID Certificate
  - o Texas Personal ID Card
  - o Texas Handgun License
  - o US Citizenship Certificate with Photo
  - o US Military ID Card with Photo
  - o US Passport
- If a voter does not have one of the above, he/she must fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and provide a supporting form of ID.
  - o government document with your name and address (Can be Voter Registration Card)
  - o current utility bill
  - o bank statement
  - o government check or paycheck
  - certified domestic birth certificate or court admissible birth document

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# Red Flags: Be on the LookOut!

#### ID does not scan:

• Anytime an ID is not a TXDL and/or does not scan, observe the check in process of the voter carefully. This should happen a very small percentage of the time, note and report irregularities.

#### Provisionals:

- Ensure the paperwork is filled out properly.
- Ensure the ballot is put into the envelope and not with cast ballots.
- Watch out for people using the process to fluster or distract the Presiding Judge.

#### Mail-In Ballots:

- If the voter has the ballot, it must be surrendered. (Watch chain of custody.)
- If the voter does not have the ballot, the voter must vote provisionally.
- Make note if the voter says he/she did not request a mail-in ballot. (Name, date, time, voter story)

#### Curbside:

- Watch for "divide and conquer" tactics to distract the Judges and leave the polling place vulnerable.
- Unless you have a fellow poll watcher that can go outside, stay behind and closely observe the polling place.

#### Loitering:

- No one should be "hanging around" the polls. Judges/Clerks should NOT have friends "visiting."
- Note and Report any violations.

#### **Assistants:**

- Assistance may only be provided if the voter CANNOT read or write, is physically unable to mark a ballot, or does not speak/read the language on the ballot.
- Assistant MUST provide all requested information.
- Poll Watchers can listen to assistance if it is provided by Election Officials.

#### **Electioneering:**

- Voters CANNOT wear something with the name of a candidate or measure currently on the ballot or speak about candidates or measures on the ballot while in line (inside the 100 feet) or inside the polling location.
- Voters CAN carry mailers, push cards, notes, etc. into the voting booth. (check for any left behind)

#### The Numbers:

• Ensure the numbers match. (# votes = # voters)

## Chain of Custody:

• This is crucial at the polling location and Central Count.

If you have questions, contact us at <a href="mailto:info@advancingintegrity.com">info@advancingintegrity.com</a>.

Or Call the Election Integrity Hotline: 833- TX VOTE3

www.advancingintegrity.com



\*This document is just a guide. Advancing Integrity is not a legal firm and cannot give legal advice. Always refer to the Texas Election Code, Texas Secretary of State, and your County Elections Office.