

10 Things For Poll Watchers to Know

- 1) Please plan to be at the polling place all day. Arrive at 5:30 AM. By law, as long as a judge is in the polling place, poll watchers can be present. Document everything, including serial numbers from each machine, when the polls open (must be 6 AM) and the precinct number. Make sure that machines register a zero tally on the ballot total before poll opens. Then make a list of each judge's name and party affiliation. There is NO lead judge. All judges have equal authority. Then stay during closing. If you need to leave, call a replacement. Make sure that:
 - Memory cards are not swapped by repair workers and at the poll's close make sure they are locked in the proper pouches.
 - All ballots and equipment are legally secured. Voting machines must be locked in the blue cart.
 - Judges sign their readout tapes from both the ballot scanner and touch screen.
 - **Get your own copies of the tapes in the morning and at closing.** DO not let them tell you it is an option to give it to you; new legislation says they MUST if you are there and ask for it. Bring them to Democratic HQ so we can start celebrating!

- 2) If DuPage County Election Commission changed the poll location, call HQ immediately. Someone will make sure that there is notification placed on the old polling place right away with the contact number of Dem HQ and the Election Commission.

- 3) Check everyone's credentials. Poll watchers, repairmen, candidates, precinct committeemen and county workers should all be checked in and documented. If they do not have appropriate credentials, you have the right to challenge their presence in the polling place. Ask judges to make them leave. Call HQ for help, if any problems arise. Make sure you have **your** credentials too. These include:
 - Real or faxed copy of signature of appropriate election authority AND the local party Chairman.
 - A statement that you are a registered voter at your current address.
 - Be ready with your address and signature! This includes the precinct number of where you are registered to vote.

- 4) Watch the Judges: Judges CANNOT:
 - *Ask voters for photo I.D.* The only exception is when the voter registered by mail and their name will have a small envelope icon next to it in the roster.
 - *Steer any voters to use touch screens.* The choice must be made by the voter and if there is steering, politely ask the judge to stop steering the voter. The touch screen machines have a terrible history of "losing votes."

5) If voters are turned away, and not allowed to vote, ask why. There may be a good reason, but ask why, where they are being sent, and get their names and addresses.

6) The number of poll watchers can be legally limited. However, by law, each party AND candidate is allowed to have poll watchers. Never leave the polling place unattended and if you have any questions call Democratic HQ. This stuff is complicated and we have lawyers to straighten it out.

7) Your rights: You ARE allowed to:

- Be close enough to observe what is going on. You are allowed to be near enough to the judges to visually examine the voter's signed application to vote and compare the voter's signature to the preprinted one. You are allowed to ask the Democratic judges to show you the receipts of who has already voted when there is time available and to check them off of your voter lists.
- Observe the counting and tallying procedures when the polls close.
- Provide instruction to the voter, in full view of the polling place. This instruction must be requested and two judges must be present.
- **Challenge a person's right to vote when:** the voter's address has changed or the person attempting to vote is not the same person as registered, has already voted or is not registered to vote.
- Object to a write-in ballot if: the candidate's name is not in the write-in report, or the ballot is not properly filled out.

****** You are not allowed to touch any election supplies or materials.**

8) Be aware of illegal activities. If anything seems suspicious or there is blatant disregard of election law, document the time and problem and call Democratic HQ right away!! Watch out for:

- The unnecessary creation of long lines to discourage one's right to vote.
- Voter impersonation or the buying of votes.
- Tampering with voting equipment and supplies
- Harassment of the election judges, voters or poll watchers.
- **No campaigning within 100 feet of the polling place.** Bring a tape measure.

9) Remember this day. **Poll watching is protecting democracy.** November 4th, 2008 is the day that everything changes for DuPage Democrats, so be prepared and proud of what you are doing!

10) Know these phone numbers.:

- Democratic Headquarters: 630-629-1125
- DuPage Election Commission: 630-407-5600