

POLL WATCHERS & MEDIA

POLL WATCHERS

Poll Watchers may be people working with campaigns or simply members of the public who are interested in observing the process. They may observe the processes at the Polling Place as long as it does not interfere with the operation of the Polling Place. Poll watches must abide by health and safety guidelines including social distancing practices.

POLL WATCHERS MAY

- Observe the processes at the polls, including opening and closing procedures.
- Make notes and watch all procedures.

POLL WATCHERS MAY NOT

- Stand behind the precinct table.
- Interfere with the conduct of any election.
- Converse with poll workers or voters as to interfere with or delay the voting process.
- Touch any materials, equipment or sit at the official precinct board table.
- Use the area between the official precinct board tables, voting booths and vote tabulating equipment as observation point/post.
- Intimidate or impede poll workers or voters in any way.
- Directly challenge a voter. Only a member of a precinct board may do so, based on evidence presented.
- Interfere with the timely closing of polls.
- Converse with voters within 100 feet of the entrance relating to the casting of a vote or about their qualifications to vote.
- Display any campaign material or wear candidate badges within 100 feet of the entrance.
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- Use cellular telephones, pagers or two-way radios inside the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance.
- Use a Polling Place's telephone or other facilities phones.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH RULES

- If the rules are not complied with, the Inspector or Polling Place Coordinator will ask the Poll Watcher to leave the Polling Place.
- If the Poll Watcher fails to leave, he or she will be contacted by law enforcement.

LAW THAT PERTAINS TO POLL WATCHING

- Any person who in any manner interferes with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass, or with the voters lawfully exercising their rights of voting at an election, as to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years. **(Elections Code §18502)**

Poll Watchers questions contact Elections Office at 1-800-834-4636 Ext 5228

MEDIA

CAMERAS & CELL PHONES

- Camera and Cell Phone use is limited within the Polling Place. Only the News Media may film or take pictures of others inside the Polling Place.
- Individuals are allowed to take "ballot selfies".
- The California Elections Code §14291 states that a voter may voluntarily disclose how he or she voted if that voluntary act does not violate any other law.
- the "ballot selfie" cannot be used to intimidate or coerce others and the voter is not allowed to be disruptive to the voting process or compromise the privacy of others.
- No person shall photograph, videotape, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a Polling Place with the intention of dissuading another person from voting. **(Elections Code §18541)**
- Notify the Elections Office immediately if someone is recording or attempting to, record voters other than themselves and they are not with the media.

NEWS MEDIA

- If members of the media wish to take pictures or film inside the Polling Place, keep in mind that their activities must not interfere with the voting process.
- They MAY NOT be in the area of the voting booths.
- Permission from the voter must be obtained prior to any filming or picture taking.
- Election Officers are not allowed to be interviewed by the media.
- Members of the news media may conduct exit polls and interview voters regarding the election outside the Polling Place, but it must be done at least 25 feet from the room where the voting takes place. **(Elections Code §18541)**

VALUABLE CONSIDERATIONS FOR VOTING OR NOT VOTING

- Elections Code sections §18521 and §18522 prohibits any voter from receiving "valuable considerations" for voting or not voting (i.e. NO Stubs for Grub, NO free entertainment, or other services).
- Please notify the Elections Office if you are aware of any persons or organizations providing "valuable considerations" for voting at 1-800-834-4636 Ext 5228.