



PA GOP Election Day Operations

**PA GOP ELECTION DAY TOLL-FREE
LEGAL HOTLINE:
1-833-GO-PAGOP
(4 6 -7 2 4 6 7)**

General Guidelines

Duties of poll watchers

- The role of a poll watcher is to help ensure that elections are fair and orderly. Their purpose is to watch how elections are being conducted and challenge or report any irregularities.
- Poll watchers are not to be advocates for candidates, parties, or political bodies.

Number of poll watchers

- Each candidate is entitled to two poll watchers per district. Each party or political body is entitled to three poll watchers per district.

Poll watchers' certificates are required

- The County Board of Elections issues a poll watcher certificate for each watcher for each election. These certificates are only valid for that one particular Election. Poll watchers must show their valid certificates upon request. Poll watchers are not required to, nor should you, relinquish physical control of the watcher certificate.

Conduct of poll watchers

- Poll watchers may not wear campaign clothing or gear while on duty.
- A poll watcher is not permitted to engage voters; instead, the watcher should direct concerns and/or issues to the Judge of Elections. Most importantly, a poll watcher cannot under any circumstances ask a voter who he or she is voting for or suggest who the voter should support.
- Poll watchers are permitted to challenge voters based on an issue regarding residency or identity; however, the challenge cannot be made simply to cause confusion, disruption, annoyance, or otherwise dissuade individuals from voting. All challenges must be based on a legitimate concern.
- From the time that the polls open until the last vote is cast, only one poll watcher per candidate (and one per party, etc.), may be present inside the polling place. Each watcher must remain at least six feet from where the voting is occurring (i.e., where the voting machines are). After the polls close, while the ballots are being counted, and the voting machines are being canvassed, watchers are permitted in the polling place but they must still stay outside of the enclosed voting space.

Campaign workers may hand out literature

- Candidates, campaigns, parties, and others are permitted to have stands and give out their campaign literature at polling places on Election Day. However, candidates and campaigns must make certain their literature is offered to voters at a distance of 10 feet or more from the room(s) where voting is occurring.

Voters may bring literature into the polls with them

- Voters are permitted to bring campaign literature (e.g. small pamphlets and palm cards) into the polling place and the voting booth if it will assist them in making their selection. Election officials should conduct routine sweeps of the voting area in order to ensure that the campaign literature is not left lying around inside the polls.
- Voters requiring assistance from another person must have indicated so on their voter registration card.

Advocates must be at least 10 feet from the polling place

- Electioneering within 10 feet of the polling place is illegal under Pennsylvania law. Specifically, the law states that anyone other than voters, those authorized to assist voters, election officials, or police/peace officers in the course of their duty “must remain at least ten (10) feet distance from the polling place” while the polls are open.
- The Pennsylvania Election Code defines the polling place as “the room provided in each election district for voting at a primary or election.”

Campaign Gear and Clothing & Electioneering

- Candidates and campaign workers are permitted to wear campaign gear **outside** of the polling location. While wearing campaign attire, they must stay at least 10 feet from the distance of the polling place.
- Candidates and campaign workers cannot wear their campaign gear inside the poll while working as poll watchers.
- Local election board workers cannot wear campaign gear or clothing advocating for a specific person/issue on the ballot or supporting a particular party or candidate.
- Generic messages that contain words or symbols about an issue/candidate **not on the ballot** are generally permissible, if you have a question on this issue—call the hotline.

Issues

- Candidates and campaign workers often are in the best position to observe concerning behavior. They should report the behavior to the Judge of Elections first. The Judge of Election should demand the illegal behavior cease immediately. **If there is a threat of violence or physical danger, call the police immediately.**
- If safe to do so, videotape or photograph the behavior that seems concerning to you. However, when using a cell phone or other video device that records audio, do not conceal using those devices. ***It is illegal to use recording devices inside the polling place.***
- If you see illegal or improper behavior, report it first to the Judge of Elections, if not resolved- call the PAGOP hotline.

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