

# Guests

Campaigning, Challengers, Poll Watchers, Media,  
and All Others

## Campaigning at the Polls:

1. **All campaigning is prohibited within 100 feet of any entrance used by voters to enter and exit the polls. No exception.** It is prohibited to have any campaign-related literature or visuals, not provided by the clerk, in the hallways used by voters on their way to vote. This rule extends to campaign solicitors, bumper stickers, literature, visuals, and petitions. You may need to ask a guest to cover or remove prohibited items for the day.
2. Before the polls open, a member of the election inspector team is to do a walk-through of the precinct and check for campaign materials within and outside the building. If located outside, check that it is outside the 100 feet radius and remove if it falls within. Make sure all election workers know where the 100 ft. line is.
3. A car may be parked within the 100 feet radius if the driver is currently voting. After they finish, they *must* remove their vehicle from within the 100-foot radius.
4. **Voters are prohibited from wearing campaign- or partisan-related clothing or accessories into the polling location.** If an inspector views a voter entering wearing anything on their person bearing a logo or the name of a candidate or party, they must remove it before being allowed to vote.

Voters are allowed to bring in campaign literature, or “slate cards” for personal use but the material must be concealed when they enter the polling location and may only be brought out while voting privately. No material is to be left behind at a polling station. Inspectors should periodically check poll booths for discarded campaign materials.

5. If an individual insists on violating these restrictions, contact the Superchair first, then clerk, and, if necessary, the local law enforcement.

### **Exit Pollsters:**

1. They may only survey voters **AFTER** they exit the polling location
2. Pollsters must stay 20 feet from the entrance to the building and may not enter the building.
3. They may *not* question voters *entering* the polls.

## **Challengers:**

1. Challengers **MUST** be registered in the state of Michigan.
2. Poll Inspectors cannot act as a challenger at any point in the day.
3. One political party may not have more than 2 challengers in any one precinct.
4. All challengers must carry an identification card issued by the political party they represent. This ID must include:
  - a. The challenger's name
  - b. The name of the appointing political party, group, or organization
  - c. The precinct(s) in which they are authorized to serve
  - d. It is recommended **ONLY** that the badge also say "Election Challenger" on it.

## **Challenger Conduct:**

1. Challengers must behave in an orderly manner. They may be expelled if they unnecessarily obstruct or delay the work of election inspectors; touching ballots, election materials, and voting equipment; acting in a disorderly manner.
2. Challengers are prohibited from threatening and/or intimidating voters during any step of the election process, including entering and exiting the polls.
3. Challenges may **NOT** be made without a good cause. Good cause would be a documentable reason such as 1) does not reside in city or township, 2) has not attained 18 years of age, 3) is not a U.S. citizen, or 4) did not register to vote on or before the "close of registration" for the election at hand.

4. Challengers may not distribute or display campaign or partisan materials within 100 feet of any doorway or within the building. Equally, they are prohibited from wearing or displaying any accessory which identifies the organization they are with i.e. no shirts, hats, armbands, buttons, etc.
5. Challengers may not talk to a voter at any point. They may not wear anything remotely suggesting that they are available to answer questions or assist voters in any way.  
\*They may *not* bring or set up a table in the polling location.

### **Challenger Rights:**

A challenger may:

1. Examine the voting equipment before the opening and after the closing of the polls
2. Observe each person coming to vote (**May not observe electors voting**)
3. Observe the voting process
4. Bring to the attention of the precinct board the mishandling of a ballot by a voter or an election inspector, that the 100-foot campaign restriction is being violated, or that any other election law or prescribed election procedure is being violated.
5. Inspect the Applications to Vote, List of Voters in the E-Poll book, and any other materials used to process voters in the polling place. They may NOT TOUCH anything.
6. Keep notes on the people coming to vote, the election procedures carried out, and the actions of the precinct board.
7. Remain in the precinct until the precinct board completes its work.

8. Only one challenger from a party, group, or organization may hold the right to challenge at any given time. They may alternate authority, but must notify that the authority has alternated.

### **Poll Watchers:**

1. Poll watcher **does NOT** have to be registered to vote in the state of Michigan.
2. Must hold to the same standard of conduct as challengers.
3. A poll watcher **does NOT** have the right to challenge a person's right to vote.
4. Poll watchers **must** sit in the public area of the precinct. They may not sit behind the table as challengers are allowed to do.
5. A poll watcher may look at the EPB **only at the discretion of the precinct board.**

**For Quick Reference, use the chart titled "Election Challengers and Poll Watchers: Summary of Rights and Duties"**

**If you encounter the *Media* (CTV, Radio, Newspaper, etc.) in the polls, call the Clerk's office and ask for Clerk Chris Swope or Deputy Clerk Brian Jackson.**