

Top 11 Things Democratic Poll Watchers Need To Know

All items have equal importance

November 6, 2018 General Election

1. Be at the polling place by 5:30 AM to watch judges setup. As long as a judge is in the polling place you can legally be there if you have your credentials. *Document the serial numbers from each machine. Make sure machines have zero vote tally on the ballot total before the **poll opens at 6:00 AM SHARP.** Document the poll's actual opening time, the name of each judge and their party affiliation, and precinct numbers voting at that location. All judges have equal authority but tech judges are the main go-to. Tell judges you want a copy of the poll tapes at the end of the day. That way there is no excuse for not having the tape at the end of the day. (i.e. ran out of ink)
2. If DCEC changed the poll location without notice - Call HQ immediately. Go to the new location after leaving a note at all entrances with the new address for others who were not notified.
3. Stay during closing. Make sure the memory cards are locked in pouches, ballots are secured, and all equipment is locked in the big blue cart. The judges must sign the read out tapes from the ballot scanner and the touch screen. The judges **must give you a copy of the tapes** to turn into Democratic HQ.
4. Make sure all other poll watchers, repairmen, and county workers have legal credentials upon arrival at the poll. If they do not, you have the right to challenge their presence in the polling place. Ask the judges to make them leave. Call HQ for help and *document any problems.
5. Watch for memory card swapping. Make sure no repairman or poll worker removes the memory card from any machine. Call HQ immediately if this happens. *Document incidents with the time, person's name, and which machine. LISTEN for people saying their votes are not represented properly on their receipts. You may follow them out to get more info.
6. Judges can not ask voters for photo I.D. Asking for I.D. is a form of voter intimidation - a serious offense. The only exceptions are when a person is registering on site as a new voter or if the person registered online. A State issued I.D. and a corroborating bill/letter that shows residence are the only forms of I.D. new registrants need.
7. Judges can not steer voters to use touch screens or paper ballots. The method a voter uses has to be the voter's choice and free will even if there is a line. If a judge is coercing or forcing a voter to use a touchscreen, politely ask the judge to stop. If they do not, call HQ.
8. No electioneering within 100 feet of the door to the polling place. No campaign signs, buttons, shirts, or speech that can influence a voter is allowed.
9. Do not allow personal intimidation or unnecessary creation of long lines to discourage one's right to vote. No bullying - inform the judges if you see or hear any pressuring of voters and then CALL HQ if this happens. Equipment malfunction or a shortage of ballots can create long lines. If machines are down for more than 15 minutes CALL HQ. *Document the time and the problem. Ask the judges to rectify the problem or get help, then CALL HQ
10. If voters are turned away and not allowed to vote, ask why. There might be a good reason, but ask why and where they are being sent. Get the person's name, address, email and cell phone number.
11. AT THE END OF THE NIGHT GET THE POLL TAPES FROM BOTH MACHINES! Read the statute to the judges if they have a problem with this.

THERE IS A FOUR PERSON LEGAL TEAM AT THE DEM HQ. CALL 630-629-1125 if you have a problem you cannot solve yourself