



## **Poll workers/poll watchers explained**

*What are the differences between being a poll worker, a poll watcher, and other types of volunteers?*

**Poll workers** (also referred to as Election Judges and Poll Technicians) are people who are hired and paid in Illinois by local election authorities. Poll workers primarily are responsible for opening and closing the polling place, setting up equipment, providing assistance to voters, verifying voters' qualifications, distributing ballots, certifying vote totals, and other election operations.

In order to be a poll worker, a person must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the election jurisdiction in which they serve, a registered voter, and able to speak, read and write in English, as well as capable of fulfilling all their duties.

**Poll watchers** are volunteers who are appointed by either a political party, a candidate for office, or nonpartisan civic organizations. They are given credentials by the local election authority. By law, only two poll watchers from each major political party or candidate can be in a precinct at a time.

In order to be a poll watcher, a person must be selected by one of the aforementioned groups and must be a registered voter. Poll watchers are required to check in with an Election Judge at their assigned polling location and visibly display their credentials.

Poll watchers are allowed to be inside their assigned polling location to observe the administration of the election without interfering with the proceedings. They can call to the attention of Poll workers/Election Judges any proceedings that they believe are incorrect or violations of the Illinois Election Code.

Poll watchers cannot intimidate or engage directly with voters and need to address any and all concerns to the Poll workers/Election Judges.

**Other volunteers** working for a party, candidate, or nonpartisan civic organization can be present outside, 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place. These volunteers can pass out information, answer questions, and conduct other electioneering activities.

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**Electioneering is prohibited within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place.  
Voter intimidation is prohibited both inside and outside polling sites.**

*Call the voter protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE / 888-VE-Y-VOTA if you need help on or  
before Election Day.*