

### **Poll Watchers may:**

- Examine precinct registers during regular voting hours when not in use.
- Challenge voters; no sooner than 30 days before an election, by returning a completed Oath of Challenged Voter form.
- Observe the opening procedures in the polling place.
- Be present at poll closing, ballot counting, and reconciliation.
- Inform the Clerk if they see or hear anything that does not comply with election laws.

### **Poll Watchers may not:**

- Obstruct the orderly conduct of any election.
- Interact with voters.
- Participate in any manner in the conduct of the election.
- Remove any materials from the polling place.
- Electioneer within 150 feet of the polling place or volunteer to help electors who need assistance to vote.
- File a frivolous challenge; a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- Wear or display any political party affiliation, candidate's name or other precinct campaign materials.
- Come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary.

### **The Department of Elections**

The primary goal of the Supervisor of Elections and the Department of Elections staff is to help bring about a greater understanding of; and participation in, the electoral process. Speakers on election topics are available upon request for schools, civic organizations and other special interest groups, and the general public.

For more information on the election laws and procedures, write or call the Supervisor of Elections.

### **Additional Information**

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding poll watcher requirements, please call the Supervisor of Elections office at the numbers listed below.

#### **Area Code 386**

736-5930 West Volusia Area  
254-4690 North Coastal Area  
423-3311 South Coastal Area

[www.volusiaelections.org](http://www.volusiaelections.org)

# **POLL WATCHERS GUIDE**



**Lisa Lewis**

**Supervisor of Elections**

**Historic Courthouse  
125 West New York Avenue  
DeLand, FL 32720-5415**

July 2020

## Dear Prospective Poll Watcher:

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the election process in Volusia County. My commitment to you is to ensure the candidates as well as the voting public will have safe, fair, and accurate elections! I hope you will stand along side of me with this same commitment.

In order that I have all of the required information necessary to approve each poll watcher designation, please sign up with the candidate, party executive committee or political action committee that you are representing well in advance of any deadline.

**Lisa Lewis**  
**Supervisor of Elections**

### What is a Poll Watcher?

A poll watcher is a person designated by a candidate, political party or political committee to **watch** and **observe** the conduct of elections. Poll watchers are not paid for their services by the Department of Elections or, in municipal elections, the City Clerk.

### Who cannot be a Poll Watcher?

No candidate, sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, or other law enforcement officer may be designated as a poll watcher.

### What qualifications are needed to become a Poll Watcher?

Each poll watcher shall be a qualified elector of the county in which he or she serves. Each party, each political committee, and each candidate requesting to have poll watchers shall designate on Form DS-DE 125 prior to noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election, the names of poll watchers for each polling room on Election Day. Designations of poll watchers for early voting areas shall be submitted on Form DS-DE 125 to the Supervisor of Elections at least 14 days before early voting begins.

Poll watchers for each polling room shall be approved by the Supervisor of Elections on or before the Tuesday before the election and for the early voting areas be approved by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7 days before early voting begins. The Supervisor of Elections shall furnish to each election board a list of the poll watchers designated and approved for such polling room or early voting area. The supervisor of elections shall provide to each designated poll watcher, no later than 7 days before early voting begins, a poll watcher identification badge that identifies the poll watcher by name. Each poll watcher must wear his/her badge while in the polling room or early voting area.

### Where do Poll Watchers report on Election Day?

Poll watchers report directly to the polling place assigned on the morning of the election. Poll watchers must be approved and on the list provided to the Precinct Clerk in order to be admitted to the Polling Place on Election Day. Any Poll Watcher who is not listed will not be allowed to observe the conduct of election from within the polling place.

### How does a Poll Watcher pose questions or concerns?

Poll watchers shall pose all questions or concerns to the precinct clerk for resolution. The Election Board or precinct clerk is the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day

### Can a Poll Watcher challenge a voter on Election Day?

If a poll watcher wishes to enter a challenge of voter eligibility on Election Day, they must complete an Oath of Challenged Voter form and submit it to the Precinct Clerk.

While poll watchers may file an Oath of Challenged Voter form to challenge a person's right to vote on Election Day, poll watchers must refrain from filing frivolous challenges. Any poll watcher filing a frivolous challenge commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.