



CITIZENS AGAINST VOTER FRAUD & ILLINOIS FREEDOM ALLIANCE POLL WATCHERS TRAINING GUIDE PART 2 – BEFORE THE POLLING PLACE OPENS

WHAT DO I BRING ?

- Poll Watcher Credentials.
- A badge to Identify you as a Poll watcher.
- Non-Political clothing.
- Pen, note pad, and statement forms.
- A watch to note the time, or you can use your phone.
- Poll Watchers guide to rules and the laws of Illinois
- Phone and a list of phone numbers for legal or technical support.
- Voting Machine Manuals – you can keep handy in the car.
- Any thing you feel you need that is non-political.
- A good attitude and a smile.



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...

Be there around 5:00AM or so.

Upon entering the polling place, election judges may be a bit distracted with their own responsibilities to accept the poll watcher's credential at that moment.

The Election judges may not have the poll watcher's sign-in sheet ready.

What Do You Do?

Have your credentials ready before you enter the polling place.

While waiting to enter or immediately upon entering, tell all election judges, "I have my credentials, when you are ready for them." Loudly so they all hear you.



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

CLOSE TO OPENING TIME.....

When the election judge is ready, present your credentials and sign in.

Sign in with the time you entered the polling place.

You can continue with your own poll watcher activities while you are waiting to present your credentials.

NOTE: Be sure to present your credentials before the polls open. If, ten minutes before the polls open, **you still have not presented your credentials, insist that an election judge accept your credentials as required by the law.** 10 ILCS 5/17-23



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

Witness the Testing of the Vote Tabulator

10 ILCS 5/24B-8

- If your polling place uses a vote tabulator, an election judge will test the tabulator before the polls open.
- The poll watcher is not allowed to touch the vote tabulator.
- The poll watcher has the right to see the test results and have them explained to the poll watcher.
- If the results are in on a paper, the poll watcher is allowed to read the results.



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BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

Examine The Ballot Box

10 ILCS 5/17-3(a) and 10 ILCS 5/18-3(a)

- This is the poll watcher's **primary duty** before the polls open.
- An election judge will open the ballot box or the tabulator in order so that the poll watcher (or any member of the public) can examine the ballot box/tabulator. The poll watcher is looking for ballots left in the ballot box/tabulator.
- The poll watcher is not allowed to touch the ballot box or the tabulator, but you can ask the election judge for reasonable accommodation to move something in order to complete the examination.
- In precincts that use electronic precinct tabulation optical scan technology scanning, poll watchers will **also check the tabulator to be sure the counter is set to zero.**



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

Examine The Voter Booths

10 ILCS 5/17-8

- Go around to each voting booth and check for electioneering materials.
- You are not allowed to touch the voting booth or anything in the voting booth. If you do find something objectionable, call an election judge.

Walk Around the Polling Place

- Did someone leave a newspaper open to the political page?
- Did someone drop a palm card?
- Unlike the voting booth and election materials, this you can touch. Pick it up. Show it to an election judge. Dispose of it. Write up a report.



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BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

A List of Election Judges

- Before the polls open, ask each judge for their name and party affiliation. Write down their answers.
- Some election judges will balk at providing that information.
- Explain that there are situations where election judges of different parties are required and that it is better to ask ahead of time rather in the middle of a situation.
- Some election judges think that they are at AA meetings and will only give their first name. That's fine. Be polite.
- The next thing you do is to request the Election Judge Sign-In Sheet.
- Confirm their name and party affiliation.



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Cont.

Find A Chair

- Find place to sit where you can witness the examination of signature. You also want a place where you can see the ballot box/tabulator.
- You also want to be able to see the voting booths, but not close enough to the voting booths that you can see what the voter is voting.
- The election authority has no obligation to provide a chair. You want to carry a folding chair in your car, just in case.
- BUT, just as the election authority has no obligation to provide a chair, they also have no obligation to deny you a chair. If the lessor of the polling place provides chairs, you can use an available chair. Chairs are not election equipment.
- If you do use one of the chairs on hand, be polite and keep track of the chair. Return it to where you found it when you are finished with it.



BEFORE THE POLLS OPEN...Last one a reminder..



MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR BADGE AND LANYARD A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE YOU GO. THE DESIGN IS NOT IMPORTANT, IT JUST NEEDS TO SAY YOU ARE A POLL WATCHER AND HAS YOUR FULL NAME ON IT.

