

Technicians

Technical support personnel may be contracted on Election Day to provide technical service on the electronic voting equipment. These individuals are available to help run a smooth election. In most cases, you will be notified that the technician is coming to your poll before they arrive. If you have someone show up unexpectedly, call the Elections office to confirm that, the person is supposed to assist with your voting machines. Each technician will have an official name badge.

Law Enforcement

Peace officers are permitted within the enclosed space at the poll only when necessary for the preservation of order. Please note that a sheriff whose name appears on the ballot is subject to the same restrictions as any other candidate in the polling place. After voting, he or she cannot return to the polling place until after the poll is closed and voting has ceased.

SEB Investigators

Any investigators duly authorized by the State Elections Board are permitted within the enclosed space during the progress of voting. Investigators will show ID and authorization to the Poll Manager. Investigators may not interfere with the conduct of the election while performing their duties but may present a list of questions to the Poll Manager.



Restriction on Interference

- ⊕ Any person who willfully interferes with a primary or election shall be guilty of a felony. O.C.G.A. §21-2-566
- ⊕ Any person who intimidates a voter shall be guilty of a felony. O.C.G.A. §21-2-567
- ⊕ Any person who interferes with a poll officer conducting his or her duties shall be guilty of a felony. O.C.G.A. §21-2-569

The vast majority of individuals who will enter your polling place on Election Day are there to vote! However, remember that even people who are not in the polling place to vote are playing a valuable role in the election process.

These individuals, of course, should not be allowed to disrupt voting or act outside the law. However, every effort should be made to treat them in the same courteous and professional manner that all our voters are accustomed to.

This brochure is intended to be a helpful reference tool for poll officers, and it is not a substitute for the Georgia Election Code. Please feel free to contact the White County Board of Elections & Registration office if you have any questions about any of these guidelines.

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Registration**
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A Poll Worker's Guide to Non- Voters in the Polling Place

How to be prepared for...

Poll Watchers

Candidates

Children

Journalists

Law Enforcement

Exit Pollsters

Poll Watchers

Poll Watchers help to provide an added safeguard to ensure Georgia elections are successful! However, who are they, what do they do, and what shouldn't they do?

How do I know who is a poll watcher?

The poll watcher must wear an "Official Poll Watcher" badge furnished by the White County Board of Elections & Registration or the Secretary of State at all times while serving as a poll watcher. The badge must include the current primary or election date and either the poll in which the person is assigned to serve or a statement that the individual is a statewide poll watcher.

What is a poll watcher allowed to do?

Watch! If the poll watcher sees any infractions, the poll watcher reports to the group they are appointed by, not to the poll manager or to any other entity.

Where is a poll watcher allowed?

A poll watcher is permitted within the enclosed space to observe the conduct of the election as long as he or she is not disrupting the flow of voters or workers in the poll. He or she may ask how many people have voted.

What are poll watchers not allowed to do?

Poll watchers cannot ask if specific voters have voted and cannot observe how voters are marking their ballots.

Poll watchers may not talk to voters, check electors lists, use electronic devices or cell phones, or campaign while within the enclosed space.

Can I remove a disruptive poll watcher?

The poll manager, after contacting the election superintendent, may remove a poll watcher who is interfering with the election.

Candidates

A candidate on the ballot is not allowed to physically enter any polling place other than the polling place at which that person is authorized to cast his or her ballot. After voting, the candidate cannot return to the polling place until the poll is closed and voting has ceased. No campaign activities, by any person, can occur within 150 feet of the polling place, or within 25 feet of any voter standing in line.

Exit Pollsters

Georgia law prohibits public opinion polling, also known as exit polling, within 25 feet of the polling place or within 25 feet of a voter standing in line. The media is subject to exit poll rules when interviewing voters.

Journalists and Public Observers

The public may observe voting from outside the enclosed space. Unofficial public observers may ask how many people have voted, not who has voted. You may ask them to leave if they interrupt poll activities.

Poll workers are not authorized to give media interviews while on duty at the poll. The use of photographic or other electronic monitoring devices, recording devices, or cell phones is prohibited while voting is taking place. Except that, members of the media who have obtained prior approval from the Elections Office may use video or photographic devices in the polling place from the designated location indicated on the Site Survey. The journalist will have an authorization form signed by the Supervisor of Elections.

Monitors

The Office of the Secretary of State or the White County Board of Elections & Registration may authorize personnel to monitor activities on Election Day. Each of these groups must wear a name badge indicating their status as an observer or monitor. Categories include authorized employees of the Secretary of State, employees of Center for Elections, Elections Office staff, and other groups authorized to observe and monitor elections in the State of Georgia or in White County.

Children

Parents may be accompanied in the voting booth by their own children under the age of 18. A person (such as a grandparent or caregiver) may be accompanied by children other than their own as long as the child is under the age of 12.

We encourage the inclusion of our young, future voters in the democratic process. However, please remember that children are prohibited from operating the voting system or marking a parent's ballot unless noted as an official assister on the voter's certificate. In addition, they may not disturb other voters in the poll.

Federal Examiners

Federal Examiners may visit your poll to review compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please cooperate as much as possible and call the Elections Office with any questions.