Election Protection Hotline:
English: 866-OUR-VOTE 866-687-8683
Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA 888-839-8682

POLL WORKERS

- Operate the polling place. They must carry out their responsibilities according to the law, in a non-partisan manner. They include elected officers of the precinct (Judge of Elections, Majority and Minority Inspectors).
- Verify that a voter is on the list for that polling location, sign them in, and direct them to the voting booth
- May ask voters for ID, but **only when the poll book indicates that ID is required**
- **May only challenge voters on two grounds: identity and residency**
- **Cannot deny a voter a provisional ballot**
- May not wear partisan clothing
- The Judge of Elections is responsible for resolving issues and has a duty to ensure that the rules are being followed at the polling place and to maintain order

CHALLENGES

- Knowingly refusing a qualified, registered voter is a felony offense
- Challenges must be **good faith** challenges to a voter's eligibility, based on **identity or continued residency** in the election district
- Such challenges must be directed to, and only to, the Judge of Elections.
- Challenges may **not be based on** the elector's race, nationality, appearance, surname, language, religion or any other characteristic not relevant to the qualifications to vote
- The Judge of Elections has the obligation to determine if a challenge is based on **actual evidence and whether there is a good faith basis** to believe that the person is not or may not be a qualified elector
- The Judge of Elections must not permit routine or frivolous challenges that are not supported by a stated good faith basis and evidence that a person is or may not be eligible
- The elected officers of the precinct have the responsibility of determining the qualifications of the person presenting themselves to vote. The Judge of Elections may not affirm a challenge or refuse a ballot to a voter unless the election officers of the precinct (Judge of Elections, Majority and Minority Inspectors) are satisfied that the challenger has proven the voter's ineligibility on proper grounds and with sufficient evidence. In the event of disagreement, the Judge of Elections decides

VOTERS

- Are allowed to bring their complete mail-in ballots to surrender to the polling place and vote on the machine.
- Can wear partisan clothing, and take a (fast) selfie, but may not photograph others
- Can help by checking their registration status and polling location at **https://bit.ly/PAVoteLocation**

POLL WATCHERS

- Must be a qualified voter from the county, be assigned to a specific precinct and must obtain a certificate from the County Board of Elections with their poll watcher's name and candidate, party, or political body they represent. They are required to show their certificate to poll workers when requested. If they lose their certificate they may appear before the Court of Common Pleas on election day and after swearing an oath or affirmation may immediately receive a replacement watcher's certificate issued by the Court.
- Each candidate may appoint two poll watchers, and each party may appoint three; however **only one per candidate and one per party may be in the polling place at a time.**
- Must stay in the area designated for poll watchers by the Judge of Elections; they can remain in the polling place after voting is complete, but only if they are outside the enclosed space where ballots are being counted and voting machines are being canvassed
- Are allowed to review the voting checklist and numbered lists of voters, only when no voters are present in the polling place, and cannot alter or mark upon any official election records. Otherwise, they are not permitted to review or access the contents of ballot boxes and other election records.
- Poll watchers are **not permitted to approach voters in the polling place**; they cannot engage voters or otherwise interfere with the orderly process of voting.
- **Cannot engage in electioneering** while inside the polling place or within 10 feet of the entrance to the polling place, including soliciting votes or displaying campaign materials.
- May only lodge **good faith challenges** to a voter's eligibility **based on identity or continued residency** in the election district. Such challenges must be directed to, and only to, the Judge of Elections. **Challenges may not be based on the elector's race, nationality, appearance, surname, language, religion or any other characteristic not relevant to the qualifications to vote**
- Any activity by a poll watcher that threatens, harasses, or intimidates voters, including any activity that is intended to, or has the effect of, interfering with any voter's right to vote, whether it occurs outside the polling place or inside the polling place, is illegal.
- While the Judge of Elections at the polling place may not deter or interfere with a duly appointed watcher who is exercising her or his privileges as a watcher, the Judge of Elections is obligated to remove a watcher who is engaging in activities that are prohibited.

It is illegal for anyone to:

- Spread false or misleading information (such as nonexistent voting requirements)
- Block the entrance to a polling place
- Confront, question, or threaten other voters
- Ask other voters for documentation
- Photograph other people casting their vote and/or their ballots (so solo selfies only!)

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

November 2022