



Who is allowed in the Polling Place on Election Day?

Topics Covered:

- Classes of people allowed
- Restrictions on each class

Classes of People Allowed:

Voters, election officials, voting equipment custodians, authorized representatives, neutral observers, news media and minors are all allowed in the polling place.

Voters - Voters are allowed in the polling place. This includes any person the voter brings as a helper, and any minor under the age of 15 accompanying a parent. As is covered in more detail in the training material, *Officer of Election Basics*, even voters are subject to restrictions. For example, voters are not allowed to campaign, disrupt the polling place, or hinder the election. Please review the course *Officer of Election Basics* for more details.

Election Officials – This class includes Officers of Election, Members of the Electoral Board, representatives of the Department of Elections authorized by the general registrar or local electoral board.

Voting Equipment Custodians - Designated Pollbook and voting machine equipment custodians are allowed. They must be authorized.

Observers – This class includes authorized party and candidate representatives, neutral observers, and the media. Observers cannot delay the voting process, in any way try to influence a voter, be in a position to see marked ballots, otherwise impede the election, assist voters, or wear anything indicating they can assist voters.

Authorized Representatives – This class must be a qualified voter and must have a written statement from the party chair or independent candidate (photocopy of statement is acceptable).

Authorized representatives can carry cell phones but cannot take pictures or video.



A polling place must permit 1 of each party or candidate...BUT... only 1 each per polling station and no more than three in the room. The chief officer determines how close representatives and observers can be to voters, equipment and polling stations.

Neutral Observers – The electoral board or general registrar can authorize if and how many neutral observers can be present. Authorization must be in writing.

Media – We must allow for a reasonable amount of time for media visits while polls are open. There are many activities prohibited for the media. Please see training materials on *Prohibited Activities*.

Candidates – This class may vote but may not campaign at the polling place. They may visit each polling place for up to 10 minutes at a time.

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