



# 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 by request to assist with casting a ballot, 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).

No candidate whose name is printed on the ballot can serve as a representative of a party or candidate. 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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