



Poll Watcher Election Day Checklist & Reminders:

For Early Voting and Election Day polling Locations Remember:

Always wear an SOE credentialing identification badge with name

NO Republican party or candidate campaign gear!

NO videotaping in polling room, or in 150' no solicitation zone

NO talking to voters in polling room, or in 150' no solicitation zone

Before Going to the Polls:

___ Poll watcher credentials you received from the SOE and Name Badge

___ Guide to Poll Watching

___ Driver's License or other photo ID

___ Folding or camping chair to sit on

___ Fully charged cell phone and charger

___ Notepad and pen

___ Small cooler with water, drinks, energy bars, snacks, etc. for the shift

When You Arrive at Polling Location (by 6:30 am) through 7:15 am:

___ Confirm Republican signs at precinct haven't been kicked over – if so, put back up (Never touch any other signs)

___ Check in with Poll Clerk, warm introduction

___ Confirm all tabulator counts are at ZERO

___ Agree on areas where you can sit and/or stand to observe entire process from elector check-in, to voting the ballot, to elector inserting ballot in tabulator

___ Confirm 150' No Soliciting Cones are placed outside of the polling location

___ Report to County Hotline if not open by 7:10 am

Throughout the Shift:

(With problems, first try to resolve with Poll Clerk, and if not resolved, call county War Room)

- ___ Confirm SOE staff are checking photo IDs at check-in – **No ID = provisional ballot**
- ___ Periodically walk outside to make sure campaigners, “Voting Rights Attorneys”, etc. aren’t within the 150’ No Solicitation Zone
- ___ Keep an eye on provisional ballots and make sure they don’t go into tabulators
- ___ Watch out for some people “assisting” multiple voters, people standing in line multiple times
- ___ Report immediately if precinct runs out of ballots, tabulators get full and they have to put ballots in boxes, malfunctioning tabulators, power goes out, fire alarm pulled, abnormally long lines

Poll Closing:

___ Confirm a Poll Deputy goes to the back of line and stands behind the last person in line **AT 7 PM**, and remains in line until poll closes.

Remember: Voters already in line at 7pm may vote.

Voters who get in line after 7pm **MAY ONLY VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT!**

___ Report immediately if end of night audit shows **machine tally + spoiled ballots + provisional ballots + unused ballots** doesn’t equal total ballots brought to that precinct ___
Keep eyes on tabulators until they are loaded on SOE trucks

Contact Info

War Room:

Hotline number:

General Operations Captain: Captain Phone:

Email:



PRACTICAL GUIDE TO POLL WATCHING

What is a poll watcher?

Under Florida law, a poll watcher is an official member of the precinct team. They must be registered in advance to represent a party or a candidate. A poll watcher is entitled to reasonable access within the polling room or early voting area to watch and observe the conduct of electors and officials. s. 101.131, Florida Statutes.

Why poll watch?

1. Deterrence against voter fraud or other election irregularities.
2. To assist the clerk and poll workers in following proper procedures.
3. To ensure that every legal vote counts and no illegal vote counts.
4. Function as a tripwire to notify the campaign immediately if there is a problem at your precinct that you cannot resolve through the clerk.

Poll Opening

1. Arrive by 6:30 a.m. and have available a chair and anything else that you might need during your shift, such as food and drinks.
2. Introduce yourself to the clerk.
 - (a) Your goal is to convince the clerk that you are there to help make things go right, not interfere. All interaction with poll watchers should be through the clerk. Do not let Democrat poll watchers interfere with the poll workers or voters. s.101.131(1).
 - (b) Establish a good rapport.
 - (c) Establish the rules: where will the watchers be so that you can do your job as an observer but not interfere? Negotiate for the best place you can get, but never accept worse access than other poll watchers are allowed. s.101.131(1).
 - (d) Establish that the registers have been properly updated for absentee and early voting.
 - (e) Establish that a no solicitation line 100-feet from the entrance has been established. s.102.031(4)(a).
 - (f) If a Republican precinct, monitor to make sure that all is progressing smoothly for an on-time start.
 - (1) If there is a change in name, the voter should complete an appropriate form and then vote. s.101.045(2)(c).
 - (2) If there is a change in address, the voter should complete the appropriate form; the voter may only vote in the precinct where they reside

on election day. s.101.045. If they refuse to vote in the correct precinct, they must vote by provisional ballot. s.101.045(2)(a); s.101.048(1).

(3) If they are not in the register, then the worker should verify that the voter is eligible through the Supervisor of Elections or from the Statewide Voter Roll. If they are able to verify the voter is eligible and the voter is in the correct precinct, then they may vote regular ballot. Otherwise, they must vote a provisional ballot if they insist on voting. S.101.69

(d) Absentee Ballots.

(1) If the person brings in the unvoted ballot, it is marked void and the voter votes.

(2) If they do not have the absentee ballot, then the worker must confirm with the Supervisor of Elections that the absentee ballot was not voted. If so, then regular voting is allowed. If either the SOE confirms that the absentee ballot was voted or it cannot be confirmed one way or the other – and the voter insists – they must vote provisional ballot. s.101.69(1) and (3).

(3) All absentee ballots must be received by the Supervisor by 7 p.m. s.101.67.

(e) If the signature does not match, the voter completes and affidavit and regular votes; if they refuse the affidavit, then they must vote provisional ballot. However, you should consider challenging the voter IF valid grounds exist to reasonably question the identity of the voter. s.101.49(2)

(f) Challenging voter – you may challenge the eligibility of a voter in writing, under oath. The voter then may only vote provisional ballot. If you see Democrat poll watchers improperly challenging Republican voters, get the clerk to stop it and report it immediately to the call center. s.101.111. Improperly challenging a voter is a criminal act.

3. Questions, problems or objections that you have should be directed to the clerk. s.101.131(1) Your arguments will carry substantially greater weight if you have written documentation in the form of a statutory cite or cite from the Secretary of State's Polling Place Procedure Manual, s.102.014(5) or something else official that documents your position as correct. These are available on line from the Secretary of State. At all times maintain your composure, be polite, but firm.

6. If the person appears to have already voted and they insist on voting, then they must vote provisional ballot. s.101.048.

7. Late closing – anyone in line at 7:00 p.m. is allowed to vote; no others. If a court order allows voting thereafter, all voters must cast provisional ballots. s.101.049.

Provisional Ballots

1. No provisional ballot should ever be run through the scanner. See. Sec. of State's Manual.
2. The provisional voter completes a certificate and affirmation; the poll worker must indicate on it why a provisional ballot was used; the voted ballot is sealed in an envelope with the completed form affixed; it is then placed in a ballot box. s.101.048.
3. Provisional voters should be advised of their rights to provide written evidence to the SOE within two days. s.101.048(5). You can go outside the solicitation zone and advise Republican voters.

Voter Assistance

1. If a voter requests assistance and either there is a notation allowing such for the voter in the register or the voter signs an affidavit, then they may vote with assistance. s.104.031.
2. Assistance can either come from two poll workers or a person of the voter's choice. In the latter case, that person must sign an affidavit. Do not allow "serial assisters," a common ploy of the "condo commandos." s.101.051. Generally clerks will respond if the situation is abusive.

Spoiled Ballots

1. The system will automatically reject over-votes.
2. If a person spoils a ballot due to an over-vote or any other reason, they

may request a new ballot up to a total of three attempts. The spoiled ballots are placed in a spoiled ballot envelope. See, Sec. of State's Manual.

Ballot Left in the Booth – If so, two poll workers shall vote it. If it is rejected, it goes in the "unscanned ballot" envelope.

Taking Ballots – Voters may not remove ballots from the premises. Be advised this is the number one way you commit voter fraud with paper ballot systems. See, Sec. of State's Manual.

Poll Closing

1. After the last voter has voted, the voting devices should be locked.
2. At that point, the polling place is open to the public.
3. Audit procedures
 - (a) The clerk should verify that the number of voted ballots plus unused ballots plus provisional ballots plus spoiled ballots equals the number of Marksense ballots issued to the precinct.

(b) The clerk should verify that the number of voters recorded at the precinct equals the number of ballots cast per the precinct tabulator plus the public count from the touch screen machine plus the provisional ballots.

(c) If there is a discrepancy in any of these counts, the clerk is required to do a re-count to determine whether or not there was an error in the initial count. If there is still a discrepancy after the re-count, then the clerk is required to report in writing to the canvassing board the existence of the discrepancy together with any known reason for the discrepancy. In the past there has been a major problem with clerks just ignoring these errors without any effort to reconcile them. See, Sec. of State's Manual.

4. Keep a general awareness of what is going on during the process of closing out the poll and count verification to ensure proper ballot integrity is maintained. Do not leave until the poll workers have completed the post-closing processing and accounting of the ballots and securing the voting equipment.

Judgment – Remember that you are a poll watcher for the Republican Party or its candidates – choose your shots wisely. Always remember that you are a representative for the Party. Your function is a partisan one, but one that needs to be performed in conformance with the highest ethical standards. Think before you act but when you need to act do so boldly.

Good luck!

Based on materials originally prepared by Andrew E. Grigsby