

2

Who's Allowed in the Polling Place

Voters, while in the process of voting, are allowed in the polling place without any type of credential. All other individuals must have a credential/letter of authority in order to enter and remain inside the polling place.

IMPORTANT: Pollwatchers, with Candidate Credentials, must be representing a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in the precinct where the pollwatcher is present.

Board of Elections Field Investigators or Agents

Board Field Investigators have an official credential to show judges of election. The investigators keep this credential. However, if a Field Investigator handles election materials, then they must give a letter of authority (from the Board of Elections) to the judges. The letter of authority should be returned in Envelope 47E.

The Field Investigator will periodically check on the polling place during the day. Other agents from the Board of Elections may appear at your polling place. All Board of Elections' agents must present proper credentials.

The Field Investigator will be required to sign in and out each time he or she visits the polling place. The Investigator Sign-In Sheet, Form 202, will be located in Envelope 1. Please make sure the investigator completes this form, as it is reviewed after the election.

Other Law Enforcement Officers

After displaying their official credentials, representatives of the United States Attorney's Office, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office and the State Board of Elections, are entitled to:

- Enter the polling place;
- View the polling place and election procedures;
- Station themselves where they can see the information on the electronic poll book screen and applications for ballot;
- Handle and inspect the applications for ballot, affidavits, pollwatcher credentials and voting equipment.

In any precinct where election materials are handled, the representative shall surrender to the judges of election a copy of a letter of authority from the Board of Elections containing the name of the representative. No

representative from any other office is authorized to handle election materials. The letter of authority should be returned in Envelope 47E.

Call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870 should any questions arise.

Chicago Police Officers

If there is an issue with public safety, call 911 immediately. If a Chicago Police officer is needed for an election-related matter, call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870.

Media and Exit Pollsters

Members of the news media are issued special media credentials that authorize admission to the polling place to monitor and film activities inside the polling place.

Credentialed media may:

- Film activities in the polling place, so long as they do not interfere with the balloting process.
- Film any and all judges of election, polling place administrators or pollwatchers.
- Ask the judges to report how many ballot applications have been completed.
- Film voters, so long as the filming does not violate the secret ballot. The media should respect the requests of any voters who ask not to be filmed.

Members of the news media and those who present “exit polling” credentials to the judges of election and polling place administrator may interview voters outside the polling place, even if they are within the Campaign Free Zone – so long as they are not inside the room where voting is being conducted.

POLLWATCHERS

A pollwatcher is a person who represents a candidate, political party, citizens’ organization, or a proponent or opponent of a question of public policy. The following are examples of who might be a pollwatcher:

Candidate
Precinct Captain
Alderman/Committeeman
Checker/Watcher

Although these individuals may use these terms to describe themselves, they are all POLLWATCHERS. All pollwatchers must be registered voters in the State of Illinois. A pollwatcher is required to have a credential in order to stay in the polling place and observe.

Number of Pollwatchers allowed in the **precinct** at the same time are:

- Two (2) per candidate*
*Candidate’s name must appear on the ballot in the precinct where the pollwatcher is present.
- One (1) per qualified citizens’ organization;
- One (1) per proponent or opponent of a question of public policy;
- Two (2) per political party.

A credential is issued by the Board of Elections and stamped or signed by a candidate whose name appears on the ballot, or the presiding officer of a citizens’ organization. The credential must be signed by the pollwatcher and given to the judges when the pollwatcher enters the polling place. Return all credentials in Envelope 47E.

Pollwatchers may substitute for each other during the day as long as the number of pollwatchers in a precinct, at the same time, does not exceed the number allowed. Each pollwatcher must present and surrender their own credential to the judges of election. If a majority of the judges of election determine that the polling place has become overcrowded with pollwatchers so as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the judges shall, by lot, limit pollwatchers to a reasonable number. However, at least one pollwatcher for candidates, political parties, citizen’s organizations or proponents or opponents of a question of public policy must be allowed to remain in the polling place. Call ELECTION CENTRAL at 312-269-7870 for assistance.

Pollwatcher Conduct

Pollwatchers, with proper credentials, may remain in the polling place all day. They may station themselves where they can see the actions of the judges. Pollwatchers are not allowed to touch any supplies or materials and at no time may pollwatchers be so close to the judges that they interfere with the orderly conduct of the election. Pollwatchers may bring violations of the law or improper procedures to the judges’ attention.

Pollwatchers may call
ELECTION CENTRAL
at 312-269-7870 with
questions.

To enter a polling place:

- A. The pollwatcher must give the judges of election a credential;
- B. The pollwatcher must have a separate credential for each precinct visited;
- C. The pollwatcher may leave and return without an additional credential.

D. Credentials must be completed and include the following information:

1. Precinct and Ward where the pollwatcher is present;
2. Name and address of the pollwatcher;
3. Signature of the pollwatcher;
4. Signature of the Candidate, Party Chairman or Organization Representative;
5. CANDIDATE CREDENTIAL – Office for which the candidate is seeking.

Before the polls open pollwatchers may:

- A. Observe as the equipment is checked and the polling place set up;
- B. Inspect the voting equipment;
- C. View the election materials and forms, but not handle the election materials.

During voting hours pollwatchers may:

- A. Be near enough to the judges of election to observe all proceedings and view all reasonably requested records relating to the conduct of the election, provided the secrecy of the ballot remains intact.
- B. Not be within 5 feet of the ballot scanner or touchscreen unit while voters are voting;
- C. Hear the judges of election call the voter's name, address and **party affiliation (for Primary Election only);**

D. Challenge the qualifications or identity of a person appearing to vote;

E. Bring questions or concerns to the attention of the judges of election and polling place administrator.

After the polls close, pollwatchers may:

- A. Observe the consolidating of the results;
- B. Obtain an Official Election Results Report, only after the judges and polling place administrator have printed the results tapes needed to complete their duties.

Sample: Pollwatcher Credentials

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FORM 242R

To the Judges of Election _____ Precinct _____ Ward – City of Chicago

In accordance with the provisions of law, I hereby appoint _____ (Name of Pollwatcher) who resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____ (Municipality) Illinois, and who is duly registered to vote in Illinois, to act as a Pollwatcher in the _____ Precinct of the _____ Ward, of the City of Chicago, at the Primary Election

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FORM 242D

To the Judges of Election _____ Precinct _____ Ward – City of Chicago

In accordance with the provisions of law, I hereby appoint _____ (Name of Pollwatcher) who resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____ (Municipality) Illinois, and who is duly registered to vote in Illinois, to act as a Pollwatcher in the _____ Precinct of the _____ Ward, of the City of Chicago, at the Primary Election

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL FOR THE GREEN PARTY FORM 240G

To the Judges of Election _____ Precinct _____ Ward – City of Chicago

In accordance with the provisions of law, I hereby appoint _____ (Name of Pollwatcher) who resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____ (Municipality) Illinois, and who is duly registered to vote in Illinois, to act as a Pollwatcher in the _____ Precinct of the _____ Ward, of the City of Chicago, at the Primary Election

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL FOR A CITIZEN'S ORGANIZATION FORM 242CO

Name of Organization _____

To the Judges of Election _____ Precinct _____ Ward – City of Chicago

In accordance with the provisions of law, I hereby appoint _____ (Name of Pollwatcher) who resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____ (Municipality) Illinois, and who is duly registered to vote in Illinois, to act as a Pollwatcher in the _____ Precinct of the _____ Ward, of the City of Chicago, at the Primary Election

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL FOR A CANDIDATE FORM 242C

To the Judges of Election _____ Precinct _____ Ward – City of Chicago

In accordance with the provisions of law, I hereby appoint _____ (Name of Pollwatcher) who resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____ (Municipality) Illinois, and who is duly registered to vote in Illinois, to act as a Pollwatcher in the _____ Precinct of the _____ Ward, of the City of Chicago, at the Primary Election on March 18, 2014. Under penalties provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of the Election Code, the undersigned pollwatcher certifies that he or she resides at _____ (Address) in the County of _____, municipality of _____

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
STATE OF ILLINOIS



2329 S. MacArthur Blvd
Springfield, Illinois 62704-4503
217/782-4141 TTY: 217/782-1518
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Chicago, Illinois 60601-3232
312/814-6440 TTY: 312/814-6431
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Rupert T. Borgsmiller

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGES OF ELECTION:

Pollwatcher Information	
Name	
Street Address	
County of Residence	
Township or Municipality of Residence	

Authorized to act as a pollwatcher in:

Name of Precinct	
Ward (if applicable)	
Township or Municipality	
Election	General Election
Date of Election	November 4, 2014

In accordance with the provisions of the Election Code, the undersigned hereby appoints the individual listed above to act as a pollwatcher in the precinct and at the election also listed above.

Appointing Party or _____