

# POLL WATCHERS

## Letter of Credentials

- To be permitted in the polling place, poll watchers must provide a designation form to the precinct officials upon arrival to the polling place, showing which political party or organization appointed them.

## Poll watchers MAY:

- Observe, but not interfere with, the election process
- Examine signed declarations of eligibility slips or voter rosters
- Write down the names of people who have or have not voted
- Challenge a voter's qualifications (challenger must be a registered voter in the county)
- Report perceived problems in the precinct to the county auditor

## Poll watchers SHALL NOT:

- Interfere with the election process in any way
- Challenge a voter solely because the voter is registering to vote or changing address on Election Day
- Inspect documents produced by voters for the purpose of establishing identity
- Compare the signature on record to a signature on any document or ballot or ballot envelope
- Disenfranchise voters by encouraging challenged voters to cast provisional ballots in precincts where they do not live
- Engage in arguments with PEOs, voters, or other poll watchers
- Interrupt, hinder, oppose or talk to a voter while in or approaching the polling place to vote
- Solicit votes for candidates or questions
- Offer advice or literature to voters, or solicit votes
- Wear buttons, stickers, jewelry or clothing of a political nature
- Use polling place supplies

## Challenging a voter's qualifications

- Challenges must be made before a voter casts a ballot
- The challenger must notify precinct election officials of intent to challenge a voter
- Precinct election officials inform the voter of the challenge to his/her qualifications
- Challenges containing false information are not legal
- "Blanket" challenges are not legal
- Challengers must complete and sign the Challenger's Statement for each voter they challenge
- With permission of the precinct officials, challengers may participate in the questioning of a voter to determine the voter's qualifications
- If the voter is able to prove that he/she is qualified to vote in the precinct, the challenge may be withdrawn

## Number of poll watchers

- No more than 3 at a time from each political party
- No more than 1 at a time from each non-party political organization
- No more than 1 at a time for each non-partisan candidate
- No more than 3 for public measures on the ballot (except for primary and general elections)

*Any person violating any of the above laws is guilty of Election Misconduct in the third degree  
Code of Iowa §§ 39A.4; 49.79-81; 49.104*

*-Iowa Secretary of State*