

POLL WATCHERS

Poll Watchers (also known as observers or campaign workers) are allowed at the polling place as long as they obey the rules set out in the California Elections Code.

A Poll Watcher may:

- ✓ Inspect the “*Roster of Voters*” or “*Master Precinct Street Index*”. Any such inspection, however, must be done without impeding, interfering or interrupting the normal process of voting and counting.
- ✓ Inspect and write down information off the Indexes posted inside the polling place without removing them from the posted location.
- ✓ Observe all activities at the polling place (including activities after the polls close) providing there is no interference with the normal process.

A Poll Watcher may not:

- ✓ Engage in any electioneering (see “ELECTIONEERING”) within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place. This includes wearing campaign buttons, T-shirts, etc. This is a prohibited activity and will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Sit at the table used by the precinct board. Only members of the precinct board (and voters who are signing the Roster) are allowed to sit at the table used by the precinct board during the time the polls are open. Also, only members of the precinct board may sit at this table while they are in the process of closing the polls and packaging the ballots, supplies and equipment.
- ✓ Be within the immediate area of the voting booths while the polls are open.
- ✓ Remove the indexes posted at the entrance, inside the polling place.
- ✓ Disrupt or interfere with the process in any way.

If there is a Poll Watcher, observer or campaign worker who does not comply with these rules, you must inform this person that they may not continue the prohibited activity.

Be pleasant and reasonable (i.e. if there are not any voters in the polling place, and you are not using the “*Roster of Voters*” or “*Master Precinct Street Index*”, it is available for inspection).

Remember that Poll Watchers may not sit at the table or interfere with the process.

If the person argues with you or persists with the activity, either telephone the Butte County Elections Office and speak with a Supervisor or contact the appropriate police authorities directly.

Do not be intimidated by Poll Watchers, observers and campaign workers. They have been known to use false statements to intimidate precinct officers into allowing prohibited activities. If you have any questions, telephone the Butte County Elections Office and speak with a Supervisor.

Members of the Press conducting “Exit Polls” are not Poll Watchers (see “PRESS, MEDIA AND EXIT POLLS”)

(Posted at polling place and printed in the precinct officer handbook)