

Poll Watchers



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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Poll Watchers



- Our current system for poll watchers has remained basically unchanged for over 20 years, however elections have changed significantly.
- In 1997:
 - Voting by mail required an application to be an “absent elector”
 - There was no early voting
 - Voting in person used a punch card or pen and paper
 - No vote centers

Poll Watchers



- Poll watchers are appointed by registered political parties and candidates, and by any person interested in a ballot proposition appearing on the ballot.
- Poll watchers shall have an affidavit from the appointing party or individual

Poll Watchers



- Code currently allows for 3 types of poll watchers.
 - One poll watchers that observe voting,
 - One poll watchers that observe counting, and
 - One poll watchers that observe the securing of ballot packages
(see 20A-3-201).

Poll Watcher



- **Voting Poll Watcher**
 - May watch and observe the voting process
 - Make written memorandum
 - May not interfere in any way with the process, except to challenge a voter
 - ✦ A person who lives in a voting precinct may challenge a voter's right to vote, if both the voter and the person making the challenge are present when the challenge is made

Poll Watcher



- Voting Poll Watcher – Issues
 - Vote by mail
 - ✦ Cannot watch and observe the voting process
 - ✦ Cannot challenge a voter when they vote
 - Vote centers
 - ✦ Since any voter can vote at any vote center difficult for challenger to live in same precinct as a voter

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- **Counting Poll Watcher**
 - Shall remain in the counting room until the close of polls
 - May not divulge the progress of the count until the count is complete

Poll Watchers



- **Counting Poll Watcher - Issues**
 - Counting takes place long after the polls are closed
 - What should the policies and procedures look like for a vote by mail counting watcher?

Poll Watchers



- **Inspecting Poll Watcher**
 - Inspect the condition and observe the securing of ballot packages
 - Inspect the condition of packages containing ballots upon their arrival to the clerk
 - Observe the placement of these packages in a safe and secure place

Poll Watchers



- Inspecting Poll Watcher – Issues
 - Most ballots now arrive in the mail