

ADMITTANCE TO POLLS

Pollwatchers, substitute pollwatchers, and candidates must present their credentials to the election judges at both the primary and general elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)

Pollwatchers and candidates must sign the register each time they enter or leave the voting site. All credentials remain in the possession of the election judges and are returned to the Lake County Clerk's office after the polls close.

ELECTION JUDGE AUTHORITY

Election judges have legal authority over the conduct of elections. They may remove disruptive or unauthorized pollwatchers or may limit the total number of pollwatchers if the polling location becomes overcrowded and disorderly. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)

ELECTIONEERING

Electioneering is any promotion of a candidate or public question, and it is prohibited inside the campaign-free zone.

A campaign-free zone, designated by markers, is strictly enforced within 100 feet of the entrance to the room where voting occurs.

Some examples of prohibited items:

- campaign sign,
- clothing or button promoting a candidate or public question, or
- any printed campaign information.

If the 100-foot measurement from the polling room's door is located within the building of a public or private school or a place of worship, the boundary for the campaign-free zone is located at the building's front door so electioneering is limited to the outside of the building.

Private schools and places of worship have the option to ban electioneering from their entire property.

SAMPLE CANDIDATE CREDENTIALS

10 ILCS 5/7-34, 17-23, Suggested
Revised August, 2014
SBC No. M-2A

CANDIDATE CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGES OF ELECTION:

Pollwatcher Information		Authorized to seek admittance to:	
Name of Candidate		Name of Precinct	
Name of Office		Ward (if applicable)	
		Township or Municipality	
		Election	
		Date of Election	

I, Christa Jonas, hereby certify that I am a candidate for Treasurer in the County of Lake and seek admittance to Carmen School voting site at the General Primary election to be held on April 2, 2019.

Christa Jonas
(Signature of Candidate) Treasurer
Office for which candidate seeks nomination or election

Robin M. O'Connor
Robin M. O'Connor, Lake County Clerk

Valid Pollwatcher Credentials must include the embossed Lake County seal.

www.elections.il.gov
Form may be reproduced

MORE INFORMATION

LakeCandidatePower.info offers some helpful candidate information to include:

- Voter history data
- Municipal sign ordinances
- Campaign disclosure information
- Election and finance calendars
- Township and precinct maps

For more pollwatcher rights and limitations, The Illinois State Board of Elections' publication, *A Guide for Pollwatchers*, outlines the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of pollwatchers.

Another pamphlet, *Preventing Vote Fraud*, spells out some telltale signs of possible voting irregularities that should be reported to the election judges and/or election authorities.

State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217.782.4141

100 West Randolph, Suite 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312.814.6440

www.elections.il.gov

SAMPLE POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

10 ILCS 5/7-34, 17-23, 28-10 Suggested
Revised August, 2014
SBC No. M-2

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGES OF ELECTION:

Pollwatcher Information		Authorized to act as a pollwatcher in:	
Name		Name of Precinct	
Street Address		Ward (if applicable)	
County of Residence		Township or Municipality	
Township or Precinct		Election	
		Date of Election	

I, Alex Brady, who resides at 526 County St. Waukegan in the County of Lake State of Illinois, who is duly registered to vote from this address, do hereby appoints the individual listed above to act as a pollwatcher at Carmen School voting site at the General Primary election to be held on April 2, 2019.

Robin M. O'Connor
Robin M. O'Connor, Lake County Clerk
(Signature of Appointing Authority) Candidate
TITLE: (Party Official, Candidate, Civic Organization President, Proponent or Opponent Group Chairman)

Under the penalties provided by law pursuant to Section 28-10 of the Election Code, the undersigned pollwatcher certifies that he/she resides at the above address in the State of Illinois, and is duly registered to vote from the above address in Illinois.

Alex Brady
(Signature of Pollwatcher)

Valid Pollwatcher Credentials must include the embossed Lake County seal.

www.elections.il.gov
Form may be reproduced

LAKECANDIDATEPOWER.INFO
18 NORTH COUNTY ST., ROOM 101
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085

PHONE: 847.377.2400
TTY: 847.377.2022

COUNTYCLERK@LAKECOUNTYIL.GOV

POLLWATCHER GUIDE



 **LakeCounty**
Robin M. O'Connor
Lake County Clerk

WHO ARE POLLWATCHERS?

Pollwatchers are official election process observers in the voting site before, during and after voting on Election Day. With proper credentials, pollwatchers and candidates may also be present during other election events including early and nursing home voting along with vote-by-mail and provisional ballot processing.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS

POLLWATCHERS

All pollwatchers must be registered to vote in Illinois and affiliated with the political party or the organization for which they are poll watching. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)

Pollwatchers must have proper credentials which are issued by the local election authority or the Illinois State Board of Elections after being first authorized by one of the following:

(10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)

- The state or local political party; or
- A candidate; or
- The presiding officer of a civic organization; or
- The chairman of the proponent or opponent group (of a public question).

CANDIDATES

The actions of candidates in the polling place are governed by the same privileges and limitations that apply to pollwatchers. All candidates must also have proper candidate or pollwatcher credentials. If a candidate is using the "candidate" credential, he or she is not required to have an appointing authority.

(10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23; 5/18-6)

POLLWATCHER RIGHTS

POLLWATCHERS AND CANDIDATES MAY:

- Observe all proceedings and view all reasonably requested records at both primary and general elections including judges making signature comparisons. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)
- Inspect list of early, grace, and vote-by-mail voters. (10 ILCS 5/17-9)
- Accompany election judges when assisting disabled curbside voters. (10 ILCS 5/17-13)
- Challenge a voter's status at pre-Election Day voting at the County Clerk's office, during early voting, on Election Day, and during nursing home voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-10; 5/19A-60; 5/20-10; 5/19-12.2)
- Observe process of validating provisional ballots. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15)
- Observe in-person, early voting at both permanent and temporary sites with one pollwatcher per candidate, political party and qualified civic organization at each early polling location. (10 ILCS 5/19-10; 5/19A-60)
- Observe processing of vote-by-mail ballots (including military and overseas ballots) with one pollwatcher per candidate, political party and qualified civic organization for each panel of judges. (10 ILCS 5/19-8; 5/20-8; 5/20-10)
- Observe voting in nursing homes in compliance with other statutory provisions applicable to pollwatchers. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)
- Observe the election judges as they conduct preparations to open the polling location on Election Day including comparing the displays on the marking device with the specimen ballots to confirm agreement and performing an operational check of the optical scan equipment to ensure a zero count. (10 ILCS 5/24B-8)
- Leave and re-enter the polling place once credentials are surrendered as long as such activity is not disruptive. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)
- Observe closing procedures and completion of canvass by remaining in the voting site until after the polls close. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)



POLLWATCHERS AND CANDIDATES MAY NOT:

- Get close enough to the voters/voting booths as to observe a voter casting a ballot and impinge the secrecy of the ballot or handle any election materials. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23; 5/19-10; 19A-60; 5/24B-5)
- Disrupt any of the election activities and procedures on any Election Day. (10 ILCS 5/19A-60; 5/7-34; 5/17-23)
- Participate in the discussion and decision following a challenge to a voter's status as it is solely the decision of the election judges. (10 ILCS 5/19-10; 5/19A-60)
- Interfere with election judges as they maintain legal authority to conduct elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)
- Enter the voting site after the polls have closed. (10 ILCS 5/7-34; 5/17-23)
- Engage in a political discussion/electioneering within 100 feet of the door to the polling locations. (10 ILCS 5/17-29)

NUMBER OF POLLWATCHERS ALLOWED PER PRECINCT AT A GIVEN TIME

APPOINTING AUTHORITY	PRIMARY ELECTION (10 ILCS 5/7-34)	CONSOLIDATED OR GENERAL ELECTION (10 ILCS 5/17-23)
Candidate	Two	Two
Established political party	One	Two
Registered organization dedicated to investigating election fraud	One	One
State nonpartisan civic organization	One	One
Organized proponent or opponent group for a proposition	One	One