

POLLWATCHER GUIDE

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 may ban electioneering from their entire property.

SAMPLE STATE CREDENTIALS

POLLWATCHER

10 ILCS 5/7-34, 17-23, 24-10

Repealed
Revised August 2014
CSB No. 14-12

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGE OF ELECTIONS:

Subscribed Information:		Authorized to make application to:	
Name	Name of Precinct	Name of Precinct	
Street Address	Ward of Application	Ward of Application	
County of Residence	Township or Municipality	Township or Municipality	
County of Residence	Ward	Ward	
Township or Municipality of Residence	City	City	
	Date of Election	Date of Election	

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

Signature of Election Authority: _____ Signature of Polling Activity: _____

THE County Clerk Election Director: _____ THE County Clerk Election Director: _____

Under penalties of law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/25-10, the undersigned hereby certifies that he or she resides and is duly registered to vote at:

Name: _____ Name or Address: _____
City: _____ Precinct: _____
Precinct address (street and Pollwatcher address): _____ Signature of Pollwatcher: _____

www.elections.il.gov
Polling Site Registration

CANDIDATE

10 ILCS 5/7-34, 17-23

Repealed
Revised August 2014
CSB No. 14-12

CANDIDATE CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGE OF ELECTIONS:



Subscribed Information:		Authorized to make application to:	
Name of Candidate	Name of Precinct	Name of Precinct	
Name of Office	Ward of Application	Ward of Application	
	Township or Municipality	Township or Municipality	
	Ward	Ward	
	City	City	
	Date of Election	Date of Election	

In accordance with the provisions of the Election Code, the undersigned hereby appoints the person named below to act as a pollwatcher at the precinct listed in the section above.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Office to which candidate seeks nomination or election: _____
Signature of Election Authority: _____ TITLE: County Clerk Election Director

www.elections.il.gov
Polling Site Registration

SAMPLE LAKE COUNTY CREDENTIALS

 **POLLWATCHER CREDENTIAL** 
(Please see reverse side for instructions)
April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election

Type of Pollwatcher: Candidate Pollwatcher Party Pollwatcher
(Check one) Civic Organization Proponent/Opponent of a Referendum

In accordance with the Provisions of the Election Code, the undersigned hereby appoints the person named below to act as a pollwatcher at this voting site. Under the penalties provided by law pursuant to section 29-10 of the Election Code, the signer of this credential certifies that they live at the below address in the State of Illinois, and is duly registered to vote in this state.

Paul E. Wacher Paul E. Wacher
Name of Pollwatcher Signature of Pollwatcher

18 N County Street Waukegan
Physical Street Address City/Village

Clayton Elementary School
Name of Voting Site

Candy Date for Clerk Candy Date
Name of Candidate, Party or Organization Signature of Candidate, Party or Organization Official

Anthony Vega
Anthony Vega
Lake County Clerk

Attention Election Judges!
Only accept this credential if it is fully completed and signed.
Place this credential in the front pocket of the Green Binder.

MORE INFORMATION

LakeCandidatePower.info offers some helpful candidate information to include:

- Application for voter data;
- Municipal sign ordinances;
- Campaign disclosure information;
- Election and finance calendars; and
- 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

69 W. Washington St.
Suite LL08
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312.814.6440

www.elections.il.gov

LakeCandidatePower.info
18 N. County St., Room 101
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Phone: 847.377.2400
TTY: 847.377.2022

CountyClerk@LakeCountyIL.gov



 **LakeCounty**
Anthony Vega
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 either the political party or 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;
- A candidate;
- 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, they are 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)



NUMBER OF POLLWATCHERS ALLOWED IN EACH PRECINCT/ POLLING PLACE AT A GIVEN TIME

APPOINTING AUTHORITY	PRIMARY ELECTION	GENERAL ELECTION DAY	EARLY VOTING SITES
Candidate	Two	Two	One
Established or New Political Party	One	Two	One
Qualified Organization of Citizens	One	One	One
Proponents and Opponents of a Ballot Proposition	One	One	One
State nonpartisan civic organization	One	One	One

10 ILCS 5/7-31(1)-(5), 17-23(1)-(5)

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)