



RESTRICTIONS & VIOLATIONS

POLL WATCHERS SHALL NOT:

- ✗ Obstruct the orderly conduct of any election
- ✗ Approach the officials' table, voting machines, or voting booths than reasonably necessary to perform their duties
- ✗ Interact/talk with voters or election workers (except the clerk) in the polling place or 150-foot zone
- ✗ Assist voters unless requested by the voter and proper procedures are followed
- ✗ Stand so close that it compromises the voter's ballot secrecy
- ✗ Bring cameras, tape recorders, or any audio/visual recording devices in the polling room
- ✗ Display partisan, political items (clothing, jewelry, stickers, signs) or engage in partisan conversations inside voting area



VIOLATIONS

Poll Watchers receive **ONE** warning for a rules violation. The warning will be documented by the clerk.

Further violations result in removal and loss of poll watcher privileges at all polling sites.



IMPORTANT DATES

GENERAL ELECTION

	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Designation Due	Oct 5, 2026 @ 12PM	Oct 20, 2026 @ 12PM
SOE Approval	Oct 12, 2026	Oct 27, 2026

Note: Submit separate forms to designate poll watchers for Early Voting and Election Day.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

POLL WATCHER GUIDE



How to Become and Serve as a Poll Watcher

QUESTIONS?



772-226-4700



info@voteindianriver.gov



VoteIndianRiver.gov

SCAN HERE



For More
Resources

Leslie R. Swan Supervisor of Elections

4375 43rd Ave,
Vero Beach, FL 32967
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POLL WATCHER BASICS

WHAT IS A POLL WATCHER?

An individual designated by a candidate, political party, or political committee to watch & observe the conduct of elections.



WHO CAN DESIGNATE A POLL WATCHER?

- ✓ Candidate on upcoming ballot
- ✓ Political Party
- ✓ Political Committee (advocating the passage or defeat of an issue on ballot)



WHO CANNOT SERVE AS A POLL WATCHER?

- ✗ Candidate
- ✗ Sheriff
- ✗ Deputy Sheriff
- ✗ Police Officer
- ✗ Or other Law Enforcement Officer

POLL WATCHER LIMIT

At polling places & early voting sites:

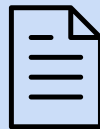
Each candidate, party, and committee may have **ONE (1)** poll watcher per polling room/early voting area at a time.



F.S. 101.131 governs Poll Watchers.



APPROVAL PROCESS



WRITTEN DESIGNATION SUBMITTED

Candidate, political party, or committee submits Designation of Poll Watcher form DS-DE 125 to the Supervisor of Elections (SOE).



SOE REVIEW

Must be an Indian River County registered voter.



APPROVAL/DENIAL

SOE sends a notification letter of approval or denial to each designated individual.



BADGE PICKUP

Poll Watcher picks up their ID badge from the SOE.



DESIGNATED LOCATION

Poll Watcher serves at the polling location designated by the candidate, party, or committee (either all locations or specific locations).



SOE provides approved poll watcher list to precinct clerk. SOE does not assign poll watcher locations.



DUTIES & PROCEDURES

F.S. 101.131

POLL WATCHERS SHALL:

- ✓ Be a qualified and registered voter of Indian River County
- ✓ Upon arriving at the polling location, report to the precinct clerk and present photo ID & badge issued by the SOE
- ✓ Observe opening & closing procedures and the conduct of voters and officials
- ✓ Display badge while performing duties
- ✓ Provide their own materials & supplies
- ✓ Perform duties within the polling room
- ✓ Direct voter challenges to the clerk
- ✓ Direct procedural questions/concerns to the clerk; If not satisfied, contact the SOE
- ✓ Keep devices on silent or low vibration; step outside to make or receive calls

CHALLENGING A VOTER

Registered voters and poll watchers may challenge a voter's right to vote when there is reason to believe the person is attempting to vote illegally. **F.S. 101.111**

1 Complete & Sign the challenge form before the clerk



2 Clerk immediately delivers a copy to the challenged voter



3 Voter casts a provisional ballot

NOTE: Filing a frivolous challenge is a 1st degree misdemeanor. However, poll watchers are not liable for good-faith actions taken while performing lawful duties.