



2020 St. Johns County Poll Watcher Information

Please refer to FS 101.131 for specific details

Each political party and each candidate may have ONE watcher in each **polling room** or early voting area at any one time during an election. A political committee formed for the specific purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an issue on the ballot may have ONE watcher for each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election.

Each political party, candidate, or political committee requesting to have poll watchers shall designate IN WRITING, to the Supervisor of Elections, on a form prescribed by the Division of Elections. (DS-DE 125)

Designations of poll watchers shall be made by the chair of the county Executive Committee of a political party, the chair of a political committee, or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers.

Deadline for designations of poll watchers

	<u>8/18 Primary Election</u>	<u>11/3 General Election</u>
Early Voting	Noon, July 23 rd	Noon, October 5 th
Election Day	Noon, August 4 th	Noon, October 20 th

The Supervisor shall approve poll watchers 7 days before early voting begins, and on or before the Tuesday before the election; and provide to each approved poll watcher an ID badge that identifies the poll watcher by name. Each poll watcher must wear their ID badge while in the voting location.

The Supervisor shall furnish to each election board a list of the approved poll watchers. Written approval will be provided to each political party, committee, and candidate. Only approved poll watchers **WITH ID BADGES** will be allowed within the polling room to watch and observe the election process.

Approved poll watchers shall be allowed to enter and watch polls in all voting locations within the county in which they have been designated if the number of poll watchers at any voting location does not exceed the number in s. 2 (FS 101.131).

No watcher shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to properly perform his or her functions, but each is allowed within the voting location to WATCH AND OBSERVE the conduct of electors and officials.

Poll watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. The poll watchers **shall** pose any questions regarding polling place procedures DIRECTLY to the Clerk for resolution. They may not interact with voters.

Each poll watcher shall be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or she serves.



General Information

- **Poll watchers must be a registered voter of the county in which they serve**
- **Poll watcher designations are not precinct or early voting location specific**
- **Poll watchers may serve at large; however, the one poll watcher representing a candidate, party or committee at one time rule still applies for each polling room and early voting location. There are 16 precincts that are co-located and share 8 polling rooms, so only one watcher per room is allowed.**

****NOTE-GROUPS MUST COORDINATE THEIR POLL WATCHERS****

- **There are no assigned times**
- **Form required DS-DE 125 Prescribed by the Division of Elections**
- **Designations must be made on the form by the Chair of the County Executive Committee, the Chairman of a political committee or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers**
- **Each precinct and early voting Clerk will have a list of the approved poll watchers**
- **SOE will provide to each designated poll watcher an ID badge that identifies the poll watcher by name**
- **Each poll watcher must wear his or her ID badge while in the polling room or early voting area**

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