

CHALLENGING A VOTER

An election judge, pollwatcher or voter may challenge a person's right to vote. A specific reason for the challenge must be stated. Reasons for challenge include:

- The voter no longer resides at the address at which he is registered.
- The person attempting to vote is not the same person registered.
- The person attempting to vote has already voted.

CHALLENGING BALLOTS VOTED BY MAIL

Reasons for challenge include:

- Certificate envelope containing the ballot is incomplete.
- The voter has already voted in person.
- The Certificate envelope was opened and resealed.
- The signature on the Ballot and Certificate envelope do not match the facsimile signature on the original registration record.

IMPROPER PROCEDURES

If an error or violation of the law is suspected, the pollwatcher should call it to the attention of the election judges. If the reported error or violation is not corrected, the pollwatcher should call the County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2314. Under no circumstances should the pollwatcher attempt to overrule the decision of the election judges.

Sample of Pollwatcher Credentials

POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGES OF ELECTION: In accordance with the provisions of the Election Code, the undersigned hereby appoints Alex Brady who resides at 546 County St, Waukegan in the County of Lake, Waukegan State of Illinois, who is duly registered to vote from this address, to act as a pollwatcher at Carmen School voting site at the General Primary election to be held on February 2, 2010.

Willard R. Helander
Willard R. Helander, Lake County Clerk

Christa Jonas Candidate
(Signature of Appointing Authority) TITLE: (Party Official, Candidate, Civic Organization President, Proponent or Opponent Group Chairman)

Under the penalties provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 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.

Sample of Candidate Credentials

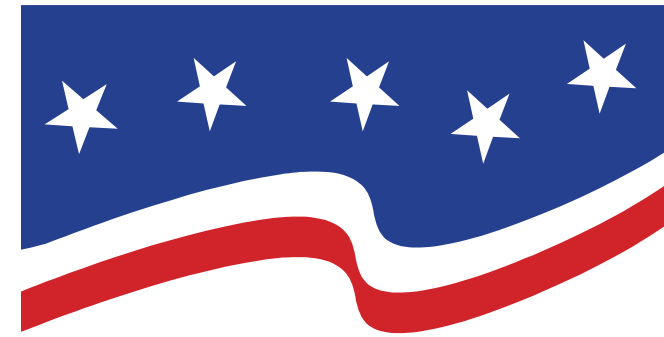
CANDIDATE CREDENTIALS

TO THE JUDGES OF ELECTION: In accordance with the provisions of the Election Code, I, Christa Jonas hereby certify that I am a candidate for Treasurer in the County of Lake, Waukegan and seek admittance to Carmen School voting site at the General Primary election to be held on February 2, 2010.

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

Willard R. Helander
Willard R. Helander, Lake County Clerk

Valid Pollwatcher Credentials must include the embossed Lake County seal.



Pollwatcher Guide

WILLARD R. HELANDER
Lake County Clerk

LakeCountyClerk.info

18 North County Street
Room 101

Waukegan, Illinois 60085

(847) 377-2314

TTY: (847) 377-2022

CountyClerk@lakecountyil.gov



*You are always welcome in
the County Clerk's office.*

ROLE OF POLLWATCHER

A pollwatcher with valid credentials may observe all proceedings relating to the conduct of an election. Campaigning is strictly prohibited within 100 feet of the entrance to the room where voting occurs, which is known as the “campaign-free zone.” The beginning of the campaign-free zone will be designated by a marker. A pollwatcher may not wear or bring a campaign sign, button, pamphlet or any other information promoting a candidate or public question inside or within the campaign-free zone. If the polling room is located within a school building (both public and private), church or other organizations founded for the purpose of religious worship, campaigning is limited to the outside of the building. Private schools and places of worship may ban electioneering.

BEFORE POLLS OPEN

The pollwatcher may:

- Observe set-up procedures and view that the ballot bin is empty.
- Observe election judges as they certify the ballots and ballot counter.

WHILE POLLS ARE OPEN

The pollwatcher may:

- Visually examine signed Application for Ballot to compare preprinted registration signature with voter’s signature.
- Observe election judge initialing ballot.
- Accompany election judges to observe curb side assistance, if it is requested by a voter.

The pollwatcher may not:

- Touch any supplies or materials.
- Be so close to judges that he/she interferes with the orderly conduct of the election.
- Assist a voter in requesting or marking a ballot.

AFTER POLLS CLOSE

A pollwatcher who is present at 7:00 p.m., when the polls close, may observe the counting and tallying procedures. The pollwatcher may not touch any ballots or election materials. The pollwatcher may not leave and re-enter the voting site after 7:00 p.m.

PRE-ELECTION DAY VOTING

A pollwatcher with valid credentials may observe pre-election early voting and voting in nursing homes.

ELECTION JUDGE AUTHORITY

Election judges have legal authority to conduct the election in the voting site. Election judges, by majority decision, have the power to:

- Allow or disallow a challenge to a voter.
- Remove unauthorized pollwatchers.
- Limit the number of pollwatchers in the voting site.
Exception: Each candidate and each established or new political party shall be permitted to have at least one pollwatcher present.
- Remove a pollwatcher with valid credentials who is disruptive to the election process.

Number of Pollwatchers Allowed per Precinct at a Given Time		
Appointing Authority	Primary	Consolidated or General Elections
Candidate	Two	Two
Political Party	One	Two
Qualified Civic Organization	One	One
Proponents or Opponents of a Ballot Proposition	One	One

APPOINTMENT OF POLLWATCHER

Candidates, political parties, organized proponents and/or opponents of a ballot proposition may appoint pollwatchers. A pollwatcher must be registered to vote in the State of Illinois.

ADMITTANCE TO POLLS

The pollwatcher must present and surrender valid credentials to the Site Manager. All credentials remain in the possession of the Site Manager and are returned to the County Clerk’s office after the polls close. Each pollwatcher **must** sign the Pollwatcher Register when entering and leaving the voting site.

VALID CREDENTIALS

To be valid, pollwatcher credentials (sample on reverse side) must contain:

- The signature of the Lake County Clerk and the embossed official seal of Lake County.
- The signature of the authorizing candidate or political committee, state or local party chairman, presiding civic organization, officer, or opponent or proponent group chairman.
- The signature, precinct and address of the pollwatcher and statement that the pollwatcher is registered to vote from that address.

CANDIDATE POLLWATCHER CREDENTIALS

A candidate must have specific candidate credentials (sample on reverse side) in order to remain in the voting site. A candidate has the same rights and limitations as other pollwatchers.

POLITICAL OFFICE HOLDER

- **Precinct committeemen** are political party officials. They must have valid pollwatcher credentials to remain in the voting site.