

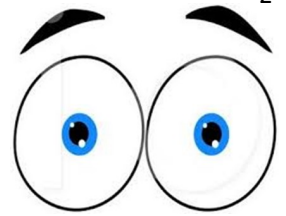


Poll Watchers

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O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408



- Poll watchers- designation; duties; removal for interference with election; reports by poll watchers of infractions or irregularities; ineligibility of candidates to serve as poll watchers
- An independent or non partisan candidate, political party or political body may designate someone to go to a polling place or early voting location and observe. This person is known as a poll watcher. The poll watcher observes the election process.

Primary

- **Candidate** may submit 1 name per precinct to the party 21 days prior
- **Party Executive Committee** shall designate at least 7 days prior no more than 2 poll watchers for each precinct
- **Party Poll Watchers** are given a letter delivered to election superintendent

Primary Runoff

- **Candidate** may submit 1 name per precinct to the party 14 days prior
- **Party Executive Committee** shall designate at least 7 days prior no more than 2 poll watchers for each precinct

Same rules for Advance Voting for Primary or Runoff Primary

Election or Runoff Election

- Each **Political Party** may designate at least 7 days prior no more than 2 poll watchers in each precinct
- Each **Political Body** may designate at least 7 days prior no more than 2 poll watchers in each precinct
- Each **Independent** candidate may designate 1 poll watcher in each precinct
- Candidates in a **Nonpartisan** election may designate 1 poll watcher in each precinct

Same rules for Advance Voting Sites

Total Number

- Each **Political Party** which has nominated a candidate for state wide office, may designate at least 14 days prior to election, or runoff no more than 25 state wide poll watchers
- Each **Independent** candidate may designate no more than 25 state wide poll watchers
- Each **Nonpartisan** candidate running in a state wide election may designate no more than 25 state wide poll watchers
- No more than 2 state wide poll watchers of a political party or body, of an independent candidate, or of a nonpartisan candidate shall be in the same polling place simultaneously.

Poll Watchers

Same rules for Advance Voting

Tabulation Center

- Each **Political Party** may have 2 poll watchers
- Each **Political Body** may have 2 poll watchers
- Each **Independent** may have 1 poll watcher
- Each **Nonpartisan** may have 1 poll watcher

WHAT CAN'T THE POLL WATCHER DO?

The poll watcher should not interfere with or impede the conduct of any election. Any infractions or irregularities observed by poll watchers shall be reported directly to the superintendent.



21-2-408 (d)

REMEMBER

- The Election Superintendent and the poll officers are the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day. No other person may handle or touch election supplies and materials. Georgia Law provides for poll watchers – upon request – to be present in the polling place during an election. Poll watchers are intended to observe the conduct of the election and their prime concern is the integrity and fairness of the election.
- **Poll watchers are official observers only.**
- They may observe the conduct of the election before, during and after the polls close. All poll watchers must be approved and listed. A poll watcher should show their letter designating him or her a poll watcher to the poll manager of the precinct when entering the polling location. A poll watcher must wear their name badge at all times.
- **Poll watchers may not wear anything advertising a candidacy or advocating for or against an issue.**
- Electioneering or any kind of campaigning must not take place in the polling place or within 150 feet of the entrance of the polling place during voting hours.

Can a felon be a poll watcher if an independent candidate or political party choose him/her?

There is no restriction in the election code as to who can serve as a poll watcher, other than a candidate whose name is to appear on the ballot cannot serve as a poll watcher.

Poll Watchers