



ELECTION DAY

IV. Election Day

Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The polling location and voting booths are accessible to the disabled.

Location of Polling Place for Election Day, September 12, 2015

Ward 5 Magruder Park Recreation Center
3911 Hamilton Street (40th Avenue and Hamilton Street)

Candidate Rules for Election Day

1. No person is permitted to canvass or electioneer in the polling room or within a radius of 100 feet from the entrance of the building being used as the polling place. A painted line will mark these distances.
2. Candidates having poll watchers are advised that at no time can the watchers interfere with the judges and clerks in the performance of their duties.
3. Poll watchers may not enter into the area of the voting machines, and must remain beyond the beginning edge of the table(s) being used by the election judges. Only the Chief Judge may give the number of voters to poll watchers.
4. All placards, posters and other material used by candidates must be removed from the area of distribution at the close of the polls.
5. It will be unlawful for any person, other than the judges and clerks, two challengers, the candidates for office and City officials to remain in general voting places at the City election after the close of the polls, except employees of the building.

Poll Watchers

Anyone wishing to be a poll watcher must present credentials to the City Clerk by 5 p.m. the last business day prior to Election Day. (Credentials include a valid driver's license and letter signed by a candidate or a letter on letterhead from an organization.)

Poll watchers may 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. They may observe the election before, during and after the polls close.

Poll watchers may represent established political parties, candidates, qualified civic organizations, or organized proponents or opponents of ballot propositions. Each poll watcher must present to the Chief Judge a Challenger's and Watcher's Certificate issued by the City Clerk to be admitted as a poll watcher at a polling location.

One poll watcher may be present in the polling place representing a candidate or group at any given time. When overcrowding interferes with the orderly conduct of the election, the Election Judge may ask all poll watchers to leave. The Election Judge may cause the removal of any poll watcher who is disrupting the election process.

Functions of a poll watcher:

- Before the first ballot is cast, poll watchers may observe machine preparation. During the preparation of the machine, the counters will be verified, witnessed, and posted for inspection by the poll watcher.
- Poll watchers will be positioned near enough to the election judges to hear and see procedures. Chairs will be set up in the designated area.
- Poll watchers may challenge a person's right to vote, only on the basis of identity, that is, the person is not whom he/she purports to be. The poll watcher should politely inform the Chief Judge of the challenge.
- The Chief Judge determines whether or not to sustain a challenge.
- Poll watchers may observe the tally procedures after the polls close.
- If an error or violation continues after the Chief Judge has been informed, the poll watcher should record his/her observations, immediately contact the Hyattsville Board of Supervisors of Elections at 301-985-5009 and remain at the polling place until proper authorities arrive. Under no circumstances should a poll watcher argue with the Election Judge or interfere with the election process.

The Judges of Election are the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day. No person except a judge may handle or touch election supplies or materials. A police officer may be in the polling place to preserve order and carry out lawful directions given by the judges. If the poll watcher(s) at any polling location become disruptive or interfere with the election process, they will be asked to leave.

Section 15-3 of the Election Code:

- A challenger and watcher may enter the polling place one-half hour before the opening or closing of the polls. However, if a majority of those Election Judges present believe that the presence of the challengers and watchers in a polling place before it opens will prevent the timely opening of the polling place, the Judges may direct all challengers and watchers to leave the polling place. Election Judges are not required to admit to a polling place before the opening of the polls any challenger and watcher who was not present at the polling place at least one-half hour before its opening. A

challenger and watcher has the right to enter or be present at a polling place at any time the polls are open, and may remain in the polling place until the returns are completed.

- Challengers and watchers may not at any time interfere with or obstruct the Judges in the proper performance of their duties. It is unlawful for any challenger and watcher to inquire or ascertain for which candidate any voter intends to vote, or has voted, or to converse in the polling place with any voter or assist any voter in the preparation of his ballot or in the operation of the voting machine. Any challenger or watcher who violates the restrictions of this paragraph may lawfully be ejected by the Judges and is subject to the punishment provided for in this article.

Poll watchers may not enter into the area of the voting machines, and must remain beyond the beginning edge of the table(s) being used by the Election Judges. Only the Chief Judge may give the number of voters to poll watchers.

Poll watchers, having presented their certificates, shall be assigned a position inside the polling room to enable them to see any person who offers to vote. Such challengers and watchers may be permitted to remain within the polling room until the returns are completed.

No challengers or watchers shall be permitted to enter a polling place before the opening or closing of the polls, unless they are present one-half hour before the opening/closing time. . They are not to confer in the polling room with any voter. Questions pertaining to this should be directed to the Board of Supervisors of Elections on Election Day.