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POLLWATCHERS' GUIDE FOR SOLVING ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS*

CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS	312.269.7900	COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY ELECTION DAY HOTLINE	312.603.7960
Judge of Election Dept.	312.269.7984	U. S. Attorney's Office Election Central	312.469.6157
To verify proper Precinct Polling place	312.269.1604	State Board of Elections	312.814.6440
For any individual who requires verification of registration status	312.269.1604		
Election Central: Legal, equipment, investigative and language assistance from 5 AM to 10 PM Election Day (many, but not all attorneys)	312.269.7870		
Equipment & Supplies Hotline: Problems with equipment or missing supplies (available from 5AM to 10 PM election day)	773.247.4065		
Board Disability Hotline	312.578.8816		
Election Support Division	312.269.7865		

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Recent Changes in Election Procedures

- ◆ Electioneering is perfectly legal away from the polling place but may not take place inside the room of the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to the room in which the polling place is located if the building is a public building. In a private school, church or religious institution building, the entire building or even the entire property can be a campaign-free zone. See Manual, p. 6.
- ◆ Any voter who has voted in early voting or on an absentee ballot may not vote in the polling place. It is too late for him to change his choices and he certainly is not permitted to vote twice. If a person comes to the polling place and his name is on the list of voters who have applied for an absentee ballot, that person may not vote unless he presents his unsubmitted absentee ballot in exchange for an in-precinct ballot or swears out an affidavit stating that he never received the absentee ballot. Manual, p. 41.
- ◆ There are credible news reports that some partisan pollwatchers will be concentrating in poor and minority ethnic communities under the pretext of prevention of voter fraud. What appears more clear is that their real mission is vote suppression; suppression of turnout and participation by voters who (these pollwatchers suspect) will cast their ballots for the “wrong” candidates. This is the worst kind of election fraud, stealing the votes of the least resourceful citizens by people who want to exploit them and keep them poor and powerless.
- ◆ It is our aim that all voters’ rights are protected; that every legitimate voter is guaranteed to vote his own choice once and only once. For this reason, the last portion of this **Guide** is devoted to attempts at vote suppression and how to combat it.

General Instructions

- ◆ Almost all election day problems are clearly and fully covered in the November 2010 Chicago Board of Election Commissioners’ Election Judges’ Manual (“**Manual**”). If possible, read the **Manual** and review this **Guide** following these instructions ahead of time so that you can find the appropriate instruction quickly when you need it.
- ◆ When you need to persuade a judge to follow a particular procedure, refer the judge to the appropriate section of the **Manual**, the document on which they were trained. Some judges may not have read the **Manual**, even if they have served for many years. Remind the judges that the **Manual** is based on the Illinois Election Code; it’s not just a guideline. Gently point out to judges that the failure to follow the procedures outlined in the **Manual** could subject them to embarrassing removal proceedings or even criminal liability. Often, explaining politely the purpose behind a procedure (*e.g.*, political literature or buttons in the polling place constitutes electioneering) will persuade them to follow proper procedures. If the judges are crooked, giving them the explanation lets them know that **you** know what they are up to. **Be polite but firm.**

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- ◆ **VERY IMPORTANT:** Pollwatchers have a right to be present in a polling place to observe set-up and procedures **before** it opens. Pollwatchers have a right to check the ballot box to confirm that it is empty before it is sealed and voting begins. Pollwatchers also have a right to check the voting booth to insure that it is free of campaign literature and that the specimen ballot face is properly configured and not defaced. See **Manual, pp. 8-9, 12.**
- ◆ If you are present in a polling place **prior to opening - and we strongly urge you to be -** work hard to be sure that the setup is proper (including providing space behind the judges' table for pollwatchers). See **Manual, p. 13** for a diagram of the suggested setup. "Put the open side of each voting booth towards a wall, if possible. (See diagram on page 13). It is important that each voter has privacy while voting." **Manual, p. 16.** At opening, be sure that the judges follow proper procedures at each station. Remind judges that they must rotate stations. **Manual, p. 6** Proper procedures from the start can prevent problems from occurring later. Also, it is more difficult to persuade judges to change procedures if they have already done it improperly for four or five hours.
- ◆ **BE PARTICULARLY WATCHFUL** for *inactive voters* – voters whose residency is in question because mail sent to them by election authorities has been returned. This is a tip-off, but not conclusive proof, that those voters may have moved. The campaign will try to provide you with lists of these *inactive voters* but watch carefully at the ballot application process because, in Chicago, *the ballot applications for inactive voters will be printed on pink cardstock.*
- ◆ **BE ALERT:** Some judges are partisan and know how particular voters are likely to vote. A seemingly insignificant deviation from proper procedures, such as "forgetting" to initial a ballot, can prevent that voter's ballot from being counted. Be wary of disturbances which may be contrived to divert **your** attention at crucial moments or provoked to **scare away** uncontrolled voters.
- ◆ **CHALLENGE** the right to vote of people you know are improperly registered. Remind these voters that they are committing felony perjury when they falsely claim to be residents on an application for ballot and when they sign a challenge affidavit. Remind election judges that they are also committing a felony if they improperly vouch for a challenged voter's residence on an affidavit.
- ◆ **FRAUD OR MISBEHAVIOR IN THE POLLING PLACE** requires your immediate attention. You must **immediately fill out an incident report form** (attached to this **Guide**) listing the names, addresses and phone numbers of **all voters** involved, **all witnesses**, *etc.* If you wait before filling out the report, witnesses will disappear and we all forget details. We will desperately need those details if we have a recount.
- ◆ **DO NOT LET OUR VOTES GET STOLEN AFTER THE COUNT.** When the count is finished, obtain an Official Election Results Report (to which you are entitled according to p. 9 of the **Manual**), phone the results in to campaign headquarters, but stay with the judges until all of the material is turned in to the receiving station. Get in your car and follow the materials to the receiving station. After you have seen the materials turned in to the receiving station with your own eyes, **then** bring the tape to campaign headquarters.

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- ◆ If you can, **take a cellular telephone** (with a freshly charged or extra battery) with you on election day. If you can't, carry coins for pay phones. If you need to report trouble, you may find that the phone available to the judges is **not** available to you.
- ◆ If you can, **take a digital camera** (with a freshly charged or extra battery) with you on election day. If you need to document or prevent continued trouble, you may find that the camera is useful to you.
- ◆ If you can, **take a folding chair** with you on election day. If the polling place is hostile to pollwatchers, the judges are otherwise likely to make you stand all day.
- ◆ If you can, **take food and water** with you on election day. If the polling place is hostile to pollwatchers, the food the precinct captain brings in will not be offered to you and you sure as Hell don't want to leave for food and drink and be stolen blind.
- ◆ **Dress professionally.** A professional appearance will enhance your authority.
- ◆ **Carry an extra jacket or sweater.** Sometimes polling places are located in cold basements and garages. Sometimes those "in charge" of a polling place will want to make it **uncomfortable** for all but the most committed, compliant or obligated voters and **hostile to pollwatchers.** **Be prepared** since that is exactly the kind of polling place where your presence is most needed.
- ◆ **DO NOT CARRY A WEAPON** to protect yourself. The police will be in and out of polling places and Assistants to the State's Attorney will be all over. Carrying a weapon, even legally, will get you in far more trouble than it could ever get you out of.
- ◆ If you are not familiar with the territory to which you are to be assigned, drive through it **before** the election day. This way, you will not get lost at 5:15 a.m. on your way to the first polling place.

BASIC RIGHTS OF POLLWATCHERS

According to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners' "All About Poll Watchers: Rights and Responsibilities"(www.chicagoelections.com/page.php?id=27):

"A poll watcher has the right to:

1. Observe the conduct of the election in the precinct polling place, which includes the right to:
 - Hear and see the instructions given to each voter on the demonstration unit.
 - Visually compare the signature in the signature book with the signature on the voter's application for ballot. This includes standing behind the judges while the decision is made.
 - Observe the judge making the proper marking in the signature book to indicate the voter has voted.
 - Challenge any voter if the poll watcher believes the voter is not qualified to vote in that precinct...

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- Observe the judge initial and issue each ballot card and envelope.
 - Observe the judge deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box.
 - Obtain a tape of the results after the results are transmitted. At least four (4) “totals” tapes must be made available for poll watchers.
2. Call Election Central at 312-269-7870 if the poll watcher believes the judges are not carrying out their duties properly.”

PROBLEM SOLVING

PROBLEM	SUGGESTED SOLUTION
Polling place not open at designated address	Call the campaign office immediately.
Polling place not set up properly Insufficient materials	Some voting places are deliberately set up in such a small space that privacy for voters is impossible. Or, contrary to instructions, voting units may be positioned with the voters' backs facing the judges or waiting voters. First, speak with the judges about expanding or rearranging polling place to assure voting units are set up with voters' backs to wall to help ensure privacy. Point to the instructions in the November 2010 Judge of Election Manual (“ Manual ”), pp. 13 (diagram), 16 (written instructions). If no changes are made, call the campaign office.
Too few judges Missing judges	Call Board of Elections Judges Dept. if a polling place is short of judges or all judges are from same political party. Don't worry too much if there are 4 judges when there should be 5. If 3 or fewer, call (312.269.7870) to request that a standby judge be sent out. After 6:15 a.m., the judges present in the polling place may swear in a voter from the precinct of the same party as missing judge. See Manual , p. 5. Many polling places already have a substitute there at 6 a.m., but a standby judge from the receiving station will have been to judges' training and is therefore preferred.
Judge shows up late	A tardy judge must be seated, even if a new judge has been sworn in , and the sworn-in judge must leave (both should sign the time sheet). Manual , p. 5.
Too many judges Fair judge challenged	Call the Board Judges Dept. to get names of all authorized judges and party affiliations. Anyone else is not authorized and must leave (or stay as a pollwatcher if he/she gets a proper credential).
One bossy judge	No senior judge is allowed. Regardless of experience, all judges have equal authority. Judges must rotate duties (helps break up conspiracies). Point to Manual , p. 6.
No police officer	“Chicago Police Officers are assigned to periodically visit polling places. In some precincts, a police officer is stationed in the polling place.” Manual , p. 7. One officer may cover a

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	polling place with more than one precinct voting in it. Call the Board or the campaign office.
Need police assistance	Call Police Department (911). Also call the campaign office.
Judge ordering unlawful arrest (may be you)	Call the campaign office. We will back you up and give you experienced advice. Many judges feel they can order a pollwatcher arrested even when they are performing proper pollwatching functions. This is a touchy area regarding lines of authority, and is regularly misused by crooked judges. See Manual , pp. 8-9, 12, 58 for rights of pollwatchers; show to the judges.
Your presence as pollwatcher challenged	Pollwatchers who are registered voters in Cook County may stay if they have credentials and do not exceed the maximum number allowed at any given time. If you have trouble, call the campaign office . For the November 2010 Chicago General Election, the number of pollwatchers allowed in the polling place is: 2 per candidate; 2 per established political party; 1 per qualified citizens' organization; and 1 per proponent or opponent of a question of public policy. Our opponents' precinct captain and their "checker" need pollwatcher credentials. Their presence must not cause their interest to exceed the maximum; they are only pollwatchers. See Manual , p. 8.
The polling place is too crowded with pollwatchers	This is sometimes a legitimate complaint; but usually, it is spurious. Judges are not permitted to use this claim to get rid of critical pollwatchers. "If a majority of the judges of election determine that the polling place has become overcrowded with pollwatchers so as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the judges shall, by lot, limit pollwatchers to a reasonable number." Manual , p. 8. Despite this potential limitation, each candidate, political party, qualified citizens' organization, or proponent/opponent of a question of public policy must be permitted to have at least one pollwatcher present at all times. Manual , p. 8.
Harassment of pollwatchers	Elections are public matters; pollwatchers may observe all phases of election, but should avoid disruptive activity. Try to calm down a volatile situation if you can. All official agencies involved with the election should have a specific commitment to uphold pollwatchers' rights. If harassment persists, call the campaign office . See Manual , pp. 8-9, 12, 58 for pollwatchers' rights.
Judges won't allow pollwatchers to stand behind their table to observe the	Pollwatchers may stand or sit alongside the table where the applications are issued and the signatures compared in the binder. "(Pollwatchers) may station themselves where they can

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signature comparison	see the actions of the judges.” Manual , p.8. This includes standing behind the judges to observe the signature comparison. Judges must call the name, and address of the voter so that the pollwatcher can hear. Manual , p. 29. The pollwatcher must be allowed to observe the signatures at the binder as they are compared. “During voting hours pollwatchers may: (A) Be near enough to the judges of election to observe all proceedings and view all reasonably requested records relating to the conduct of the election, provided the secrecy of the ballot remains intact.” Manual , p. 9
Judges won't allow pollwatchers to check voting station when not in use	This is also wrong. Pollwatchers should periodically inspect the voting station to see that any specimen ballots are in proper position and have not been marked upon or defaced. If not, persuade the judges to stop the voting on that machine. Such checks should be made when the voting units are not in use and must be made in such a way that they do not interfere with the voting process. “During voting hours pollwatchers may: (D) Inspect the voting equipment when not in use by voters” Manual , p. 9.
Voting station malfunction	No one should vote at the voting station until it's fixed. Call the campaign office and the Board.
Judges aren't comparing signatures on the applications to signatures in the binder	Inform the judges of the law and observe them for a while to insure compliance. “Pollwatchers may bring violations of the law or improper procedures to the judges' attention.” Manual , p. 8. We can petition for particular judges to be held in contempt of court, they can even be removed or prosecuted for not fulfilling their duties correctly or for allowing such things to happen. Remind them of recent prosecutions and urge them - gently - not to get themselves in trouble. See Manual , pp. 29-30 re: judges' duty to compare signatures.
Signatures don't match	This is a very tricky area because <i>voters' signatures do change over the years</i> . If there is an obvious non-match, call the judges' attention to it. Persuade the judges to ask the voter for his/her birthdate or the last four digits of their Social Security Number (an impostor voting in someone else's name probably won't know the correct answers). If a law enforcement officer is present, call him over. Look at the birthdate to see how old the voter is supposed to be; if the birthdate indicates the voter is supposed to be 40 but the voter looks 20, call upon the law enforcement official or the election judges to act immediately in case you've found a forger and “ghost voter”. See below and Manual , pp. 38 regarding challenging voters.

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Challenging a voter's right to vote	<p>All qualified, registered voters in the precinct may vote. A voter may be challenged if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person's card is not in the binder and his or her name is not on the poll sheet. • The person attempting to vote is not the same as the person registered. • The voter no longer resides at the address given (and has not moved from that address within the last 30 days). • The person has already voted. • The person has changed his or her name more than 28 days before the election and has not reregistered. (except that married women who continue to use their maiden name may vote under that name.) <p>If the voter is sure that he is registered to vote at this polling place and his name is not printed on a ballot application and he does not appear in the signature book, he is permitted to vote a provisional ballot. See Manual, pp. 38.</p> <p>To decide a challenge, "Judges of Election should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the voter to display current identification with his or her name, address, and photograph, if available. • Ask the voter to provide specific information contained on the left side of their Application for Ballot (date of birth or social security number)..." Manual, p. 38. <p>The judges act as a board and vote on the challenge. If a majority of the judges decide to overrule the challenge, the voter is permitted to vote following the same procedure as any unchallenged voter. Manual, p. 38. "If a majority of the judges agree that the voter is not qualified to vote in the precinct, the voter must be advised of the reason for the judges' decision and the voter must be permitted to vote a Provisional Ballot." Manual, p. 38.</p>
In-precinct restoration	<p>If a voter's registration was challenged as a result of the mail canvass, the pre-printed Application for Ballot will be pink. Voters will be asked to show identification. Judges will check off box 2 of the Consolidated Voters Affidavit and list the nature of the identification they were shown. Manual, pp. 31, 34.</p>
Board error in registration/appealing the judges' decision on voter eligibility	<p>If a person believes he or she is qualified to vote but the judges sustained the challenge or the Board made an error, the voter must be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. "Before issuing the person a provisional ballot, a judge of election must verify that</p>

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	<p>he or she is in the correct precinct by checking to see if the voter's address is within the precinct boundaries." Manual, p. 38. To do so, they may check the precinct poll sheet for the addresses of other voters or they may call the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners (312.269.1604). "If the voter's address is outside of the precinct boundaries, the judges of election must instruct the voter to go to the correct polling place", providing the correct address. Manual, p. 38.</p>
Instruction versus assistance	<p>"Instruction" means giving a demonstration to the voter about voting procedures and the mechanics of how to mark the ballot. Instruction must always be done by judges using orange demonstration ballots at the judges' table at Station 2. See Manual, p. 42.</p> <p>A person who gives "assistance" may accompany the voter into the voting booth and may physically mark the ballot for the voter. Assistance is more amenable to vote fraud than instruction. Too often, judges permit "assistance" when only "instruction" is proper. Every voter can and should get "instruction." Only voters who are physically disabled or unable to read English qualify for "assistance." A person does not qualify for "assistance" because he/she is intoxicated, mentally impaired or otherwise unable to understand "instruction." See Manual, pp. 34, 36-37.</p>
Illegal instruction	<p>Instruction is to be given only by election judges, only in a non-partisan manner, and only on the orange demonstration ballots at the judges' table. Judges are required to offer each voter a demonstration, and to offer each voter a chance to use an orange demonstration ballot to practice. Manual, p. 42. If a voter asks for instruction or "help" at the voting station, the judges are not permitted to run over to "help." The voter must remove his/her ballot, go back to the judges at the table, have the judges mark the ballot "spoiled," ask for clarification at the demonstrator with a demonstration ballot, and be issued a new ballot to take back to the booth. Some judges may attempt to use a real ballot with the real candidates' names instead of the orange demonstration ballots or show voters where to mark to vote for "favored candidates" in some manner. Check this carefully and insist any such real ballot be removed from the judges' table at station 2 immediately and that instruction be non-partisan.</p>
Legal assistance	<p>Only two categories of voters qualify for legal assistance: persons who are illiterate (cannot read the English language) and persons who are physically disabled (in a way that they cannot make marks alone). Manual, p. 34. Mental disability or confusion does not qualify for assistance, only instruction.</p>

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The voter must choose assistance by:

- 2 judges of election - 1 Democrat and 1 Republican - the voter must sign or mark his/her "X" on the affidavit and the 2 judges assisting must also sign the affidavit
- Any person of the voter's free choice (can be precinct captain) - the voter must sign or mark his/her "X" on the affidavit, the assister must sign the affidavit, and the judge administering oath to the assister must also sign the affidavit.

Manual, pp. 36, 50.

The assister(s) must always follow voter's direction.

"...those providing the assistance cannot attempt to influence the voter's choice of candidates, party or issues on the ballot and shall mark the ballot as directed by the voter." **Manual**, p. 51.

Every polling place should be equipped with a touchscreen voting unit with audio ballot and headphones; this voting unit can be used with a sip and puff device or the audio/visual ballot option to allow as many voters as possible to vote without assistance. Supplies in every polling place should include the ballot viewer (magnifying glass which enlarges the type) and ballot marker gripper. These voter aids may enable a voter with arthritis or poor eyesight to vote without "assistance." Insist that judges offer any and all of these aids where appropriate. See **Manual**, p. 52.

If a voter has "forgotten" his/her eyeglasses and the ballot viewer is not sufficient, the voter should go home to get them. "Intoxication is not a valid reason for receiving assistance in voting" (Manual, p. 36, see also pp. 34, 51); neither is mental disability. Point intoxicated voters to the booth and call them back after 5 minutes to deposit the ballot.

Electioneering

Electioneering is perfectly legal away from the **polling place** but may not take place **inside the room of the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to the room in which the polling place is located** if the building is a public building. In a private school, church or religious institution building, the entire building or even the entire property *can be* a campaign-free zone. See **Manual**, p. 6.

Electioneering questions occur in every election; if a serious dispute occurs, call the campaign office. If illegal electioneering is blatant and inside the actual room in which voting is taking place, whether by precinct workers from any camp or by judges themselves (who frequently electioneer quite boldly), take immediate action by calling upon any nearby police officer or

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	election official. Take copious notes on offenders, of course. Election judges frequently solicit voters when demonstrating voting procedures or at the voting booths.
Chain balloting	If someone gets hold of an actual ballot (either an absentee ballot secured for this purpose or a ballot from a cooperative election judge) and takes it outside the polling place, a chain can begin. The ballot is hand-marked for the “right” candidates. Then a cooperative or compliant voter carries it into the polling place hiding the pre-marked ballot on his/her person and, once in voting booth, substitutes the pre-marked ballot for the newly issued ballot received from judges. The newly issued ballot is then hidden and returned to the chain manager in exchange for payment. The fresh ballot is hand-marked and the cycle repeats. Judges should use ballots in sequence to avoid chain balloting.
Number of ballots taken or issued doesn't match with the number of applications completed	This could be evidence of chain balloting. The number of applications for ballot must correspond to the number of ballots issued minus any spoiled ballots. If not, first, double check your math. Second, question the judges and other pollwatchers. When the judges are not busy, ask them to count the number of spoiled ballots out loud in front of you so that you may confirm your numbers. If not satisfied, call the campaign office .
Paper ballot problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-marked ballots for cooperative, compliant or intimidated voters. • Judges marking an identifying mark on the paper ballot so that it will be invalidated when going through the ballot scanner. • Judges deliberately not initialing ballots of "wrong" voters so that their ballots will not be counted on the first attempt. See Manual, p. 42, for the judges' duty to initial ballots at Station 2. The optical scan machine will reject an uninitialed ballot and the voter need only return to station 2 to get their ballot initialed by a judge of election. Manual, p. 48. Nonetheless, this tactic may be used to frustrate and delay “wrong” voters. • Voting units can be removed from the stand and taken out of the polling place; some precinct workers have been known to take them to voters who couldn't get to a polling place but had not applied for an absentee ballot. Needless to say, this is wrong. “Curbside voting” is permitted up to 50 feet from the entrance to the building which houses the polling place but no voting unit is to be moved. See Manual pp. 50-52 for proper procedures to assist the disabled at inaccessible polling places.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a voter mistakenly marks an overvote, the optical scan machine should reject the ballot and inform the voter of the error. If a voter makes such a mistake, the judge of election must inform the voter that they may accept their ballot “as-is”, thereby negating any votes cast for an overvoted office, or receive a new ballot. There is no way to correct an overvote short of going back to the judges’ table at station 2 to get a new ballot. If the voter chooses to receive a new ballot, the discarded (overvoted) one must be marked “spoiled” in his/her presence. See Manual, p. 48. Many voters are too embarrassed to go out to get a new ballot, or may not want to take the time to go through marking the whole ballot once again. • Judges may “forget” to issue a privacy envelope, in order to be able to look at a voter’s ballot. • Voters are to keep the ballot in their possession from receipt to insertion into the optical scanner: “After voting, the voter should place the ballot inside the privacy sleeve and proceed to the ballot scanner. With the ballot inside the privacy sleeve, the voter must hold the sleeve at the bottom and insert the ballot into the ballot scanner.” Manual, p. 48. Judges sometimes attempt to collect ballots from voters, stacking them up “to scan later”. Who knows what is done to these ballots before they are later fed into the optical scanner, indeed if they ever get there?
Moving ballots for the count	<p>In Cook County ballots are to be counted in the precinct. They must be counted in the precinct polling place except when the ballot counting machinery fails. In that case, the judges, materials, and the pollwatchers move to the Receiving Station to count the ballots. In any other case, should the judges attempt to move the ballots before the count is completed, the pollwatcher should seek the assistance of a police officer and/or State’s Attorney to stop the move. Call the campaign office and the Board immediately.</p>
Closing the polling place	<p>Pollwatchers are entitled to remain in the polling place while the votes are counted and the equipment is packed and locked. Manual, p. 53. Because there is some legal dispute as to whether a pollwatcher has the <i>legal right</i> to enter and re-enter a polling place after it is closed, pollwatchers are best advised to enter polling places before 7:00 p.m. to observe the count. The general practice is to lock the doors at 7:00 p.m. and ignore people attempting entry thereafter.</p>

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Absentee ballots

Any voter who has voted in early voting or on an absentee ballot **may not vote** in the polling place. It is too late for him to change his choices and he certainly is not permitted to vote twice.

If a person comes to the polling place and his name is on the list of voters who have applied for an absentee ballot, that person **may not vote** unless he presents his unsubmitted absentee ballot in exchange for an in-precinct ballot or swears out an affidavit stating that he never received the absentee ballot. **Manual**, p. 41.

Canvassing valid write-in votes

The procedures for identifying and counting write-in votes are very specifically detailed in the Judges' Manual. **Manual**, p. 59.

Vote Suppression Tactics And How To Combat Them

As noted above, there are allegations that, for the November 2, 2010 General Election, a particular campaign and political party are mounting a "voter integrity" campaign plainly designed to suppress the votes of citizens of particular poor and minority ethnic communities who, if permitted to vote as the law allows, will vote for the "wrong" candidates. This dishonest, racist and cynical effort should cause all honest citizens to redouble their efforts for an open, honest and fair election process, and, particularly, for full participation by every legitimate voter in the targeted areas.

These pollwatchers likely have a right to be in the pollingplaces and, if acting legally, must be tolerated. They intend to harass legitimate voters and, if they do not actually prevent voting by those who (they think) would vote for their opponents, they intend to confuse and slow the process. Watch for:

- challenges to first-time voters, the elderly and infirm
- attempts to create staged disruptions, disputes, confusion
- false claims that voting equipment is not working correctly (in order to get touchscreen machines show down and further slow the voting process)
- encouraging election judges to issue a provisional ballot to a voter who has come to the wrong pollingplace

Encourage the election judges:

- to "go by the book" following the procedures in the **Manual**
- to remain courteous to the voters and assist them in showing their qualifications
- to correct (re-calibrate to correct "drift") malfunctioning touchscreen voting units
- to resist issuing a provisional ballot to a voter who has come to the wrong pollingplace but, instead, to direct him to the correct pollingplace where his vote will actually be counted

Thank you for your service in protecting the right of every voter in the City of Chicago to vote, once and only once, secretly and without undue influence and to have their vote counted fairly.

Use separate form for each different incident

(use back of form to provide more information)

(Your Campaign Letterhead)

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Incident Report – November 2, 2010 Election

(turn in or fax no later than 10:00 am November 3, 2010)

(please print)

Person Reporting _____

Cellular: _____ Pager: _____

Residence Address _____

Email: _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

Address of incident _____

Township or Ward _____

Precinct # _____ Time of incident _____ am/pm

Did the Election Judges ALWAYS check the list of early and absentee voters before issuing a ballot? _____

If not, did they do so after somebody reminded them? _____ Explain below.

Describe incident _____

Resolution of incident _____

Offender _____

Day Phone _____

Role in pollingplace _____

Evening Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Offender _____

Day Phone _____

Role in pollingplace _____

Evening Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Voter Involved _____

Day Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Evening Phone _____

Voter Involved _____

Day Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Evening Phone _____

Voter Involved _____

Day Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Evening Phone _____

Witness _____

Day Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Evening Phone _____

Witness _____

Day Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Evening Phone _____