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## **POLLWATCHERS' GUIDE FOR SOLVING ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

### **KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS\***

<b>COOK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE – AUTOMATED DIRECTORY</b>	312.603.0906	<b>COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY ELECTION DAY HOTLINE</b>	312.603.7960
<b>Election Day Call Center/ Election Warehouse</b>	<b>773.801.2050</b>		
Absentee/Early Ballot Dept.	312.603.0944	U. S. Attorney's Office Election Central	312.469.6157
Election Judge Dept.	312.603.0965		
Polling Place Dept.	312.603.0973	State Board of Elections	312.814.6440
Voter Verification Hotline (To verify proper Precinct Polling Place)	312.603.0239		
Ballot Entitlement (Provisional Voting)	312.603.0920		
Legal Help Line	312.603.0236		
Disability Coordinator	312.603.0944		
Spanish Language Hotline	312.603.6767		
Chinese Language Hotline	312.603.6769		
TDD Information Line	312.603.0902		

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## **POLLWATCHERS' GUIDE FOR SOLVING ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

### **New Or Relatively New This Election**

- ◆ “Campaign-free zone”. New rules on electioneering near the pollingplace. Private schools, churches and other religious buildings used, in part, as pollingplaces have different rules than public buildings. See **Manual**, p. 4, 49.
- ◆ Absentee ballots are no longer counted in the polling place and voters now have the opportunity for early voting as well. *However*, ballot applications for voters who have already voted are still sent to the polling place. In order to prevent some people from voting twice, *election judges must check the list of early and absentee voters* before approving a ballot application and issuing a ballot. This check is to be done once, at the start of the day, with each ineligible early/absentee ballot application clearly stamped as such. See **Manual**, p. 51. 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. 61-62.
- ◆ 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 2010 Cook County Clerk Election Judge Manual (“**Manual**”) which is unchanged for the November General Election. 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 pollingplace 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 pollingplace to observe 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. 8-10, 57
  
- ◆ **IF YOU ARE PRESENT IN A POLLINGPLACE PRIOR TO OPENING**, work hard to be sure that the setup is proper (including providing space behind the judges' table for pollwatchers). See **Manual**, p. 45 for a diagram of the suggested setup. "To ensure privacy, set up booths and touch screens so that the voter's back is to the wall when voting." **Manual**, p. 45. At opening, be sure that the judges follow proper procedures at each station. Remind judges that they should rotate stations. 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.
  
- ◆ **IF THERE IS A PROPERLY REGISTERED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE**, you should be sure to have a pollwatcher present in the pollingplace prior to opening to be sure that the election judges know about the candidate, prepare for voters performing a write-in and properly counting write-in ballots.
  
- ◆ **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** 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 POLLINGPLACE** requires your immediate attention. You must **immediately fill out an incident report** 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 will 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 (which you are entitled to according to pp. 10, 104 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 pollingplace 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 pollingplace 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 pollingplaces are located in cold basements and garages. Sometimes those "in charge" of a pollingplace 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 pollingplace where your presence is most needed.
- ◆ **DO NOT CARRY A WEAPON** to protect yourself. The Police will be in and out of pollingplaces, the Cook County Sheriff will be readily available 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 pollingplace.

## **BASIC POLLWATCHER RIGHTS**

According to the Cook County Clerk, pollwatchers:

- May observe before polls officially open, during the day, and after the polls close.
- Have the right to hear the names and addresses of voters as they announce themselves to the judges.
- Have the right to compare a voter's signature on the application with the signature in the application book.

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- Have the right to a precinct results tape at the end of the day.

(Source: Cook County Clerk's "Keep it Fair" publication:

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/DocumentLibrary/keepitfairONLINE.pdf>)

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>SUGGESTED SOLUTION</b>
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 2010 Judge of Election Manual (" <b>Manual</b> "), p. 45. 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 (312.603.0965) to request that a standby judge be sent out. See <b>Manual</b> , p. 2. 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. 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	<b>A tardy judge must be seated, even if a new judge has been sworn in</b> , and the sworn-in judge must leave (both should sign the time sheet). <b>Manual</b> , p. 2.
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. Point to <b>Manual</b> , pp. 1, 5. Judges should rotate duties (helps break up conspiracies).
No police officer	"The Clerk's office does not assign police officers to polling places. Uniformed suburban police officers from local villages can enter a polling place only if their presence is specifically

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	requested by the County Clerk's office; in case of an emergency; or if they come in to vote." <b>Manual</b> , p. 7.
Need police assistance	Call the campaign office. In case of emergency, call 911.
Judge ordering unlawful arrest (may be you)	<b>Call the campaign office.</b> 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 <b>Manual</b> , pp. 8-11, 57, 91, 106 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 <b>the campaign office</b> . For the November 2010 State and County 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. <b>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.</b> See <b>Manual</b> , p. _____.
The polling place is too crowded with pollwatchers	This is sometimes a legitimate complaint; but usually, it is spurious. <b>Judges are not permitted to use this claim to get rid of critical pollwatchers.</b> If the judges of election determine that the pollingplace is overcrowded with pollwatchers to the point that the conduct of the election is affected, they may, by lot, limit the number of pollwatchers. Despite this potential limitation, each candidate and political party must be permitted to have at least one pollwatcher present at all times. See <b>Manual</b> , 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 <b>should have</b> a specific commitment to uphold pollwatchers' rights. If harassment persists, call <b>the campaign office</b> . See <b>Manual</b> , pp. 8-11, 57, 93, 106 for pollwatchers' rights.
Judges won't allow pollwatchers to stand behind their table to observe the signature comparison	Pollwatchers may stand or sit alongside the table where the applications are issued and the signatures compared in the binder. 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. The pollwatcher must be allowed to observe the signatures at the binder as they are

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	<p>compared. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 10. “Poll watchers may: stand or sit near or behind the election judge station to observe the issuing of ballots or activation cards, and the comparing of signatures; look at all reasonably requested records” <b>Manual</b>, p. 10</p>
<p>Judges won't allow pollwatchers to check voting station when not in use</p>	<p>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. See <b>Manual</b>, pp. 10, 57.</p>
<p>Voting station malfunction</p>	<p>“Poll watchers must report any irregularities or improprieties to the election judges. <b>Judges must shut down any voting area with defective or non-working equipment.</b>” <b>Manual</b>, p. 10. No one should vote at the voting station until it's fixed. Call the campaign office and the Board.</p>
<p>Judges aren't comparing signatures on the applications to signatures in the binder</p>	<p>Inform the judges of the law and observe them for a while to insure compliance. 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. <b>Manual</b>, pp. 59-60, duty to compare signatures.</p>
<p>Signatures don't match</p>	<p>This is a very tricky area because <i>voters' signatures do change over the years</i>. Look at the date of registration on the binder card for a suggestion as to whether a serious signature variation is fairly expected. If there is an obvious non-match, call the judges' attention to it. “Election judges must: ask the voter to display current identification, showing his or her name, address, and photograph (if available)...” <b>Manual</b>, p. 11. In case of no ID, 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). Call the police officer over too. 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 police officer immediately in case you've found a forger and “ghost voter”.</p>

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Challenging a voter's right to vote

“A poll watcher, election judge, or voter can object to another voter's identity or eligibility and challenge his or her right to vote in the precinct.” **Manual**, p.11.

All qualified, registered voters in the precinct may vote. A voter may be challenged if:

- 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.)

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**, pp. 12, 66. “If a majority of the judges agree the voter is not qualified to vote in the precinct, the judges must provide the voter the basis of their decision to uphold the challenge.” **Manual**, p. 12

The judges must also allow the voter to cast a provisional ballot after the voter and the judge complete the provisional voter affidavit FORM 501.” **Manual**, p. 12. See also: **Manual**, p. 76.

If the voter insists that he is registered to vote at this pollingplace 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. 76-79.

In-precinct restoration

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 two pieces of identification, both of which bear their residence address. If presented, the judges will check off the appropriate box on the Universal Voters Affidavit and list the nature of the identification they were shown. If the voter can not provide suitable identification, he or she will only be able to vote a provisional ballot **Manual**, p. 63.

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<p>Board error in registration/appealing the judges' decision on voter eligibility</p>	<p>See also: <b>Manual</b>, pp. 76-79 re: provisional balloting.</p> <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. <b>Manual</b>, p. 76.</p> <p>“If there is no record for a voter who claims that he or she is registered, (the judge of election must) check the Ballot Style Locator by Street Range to determine if the voter is in the correct precinct and polling place.” <b>Manual</b>, p. 68.</p> <p>If the voter is not in the correct precinct, the judge of election must direct him or her to the correct polling place location. If the voter is in the correct precinct, the judge of election must call the Voter Verification Hotline (312.603.0239); if there is no registration record for the voter, “he or she is entitled to vote a provisional ballot.” <b>Manual</b>, p. 68.</p>
<p>Instruction versus assistance</p>	<p>“Instruction” means giving a demonstration to the voter of voting procedures and the mechanics of how to mark the ballot. Instruction must always be done by judges using demonstration ballots at the judges' table at Station 2. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 71.</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.”</p> <p>“Assistance may be provided to: voters unable to physically mark a ballot; voters unable to read, speak, or write English; voters with limited reading and writing skills.” <b>Manual</b>, p. 84.</p> <p><b>A person does not qualify for “assistance” because he/she is intoxicated, mentally impaired or otherwise unable to understand “instruction.”</b></p>
<p>Illegal instruction</p>	<p>Instruction is to be given only by election judges, only in a non-partisan manner, and only on the demonstration ballots at the judges' table. Judges are required to offer each voter a demonstration of voting procedures. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 71. The judges should also offer each voter a chance to use a demonstration ballot and make a mark. 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</p>

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	<p>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>
<p>Legal assistance</p>	<p>Only two categories of voters qualify for legal assistance: persons who are illiterate (cannot sufficiently read the English language) and persons who are physically disabled (in a way that they cannot make marks alone). <b>Manual</b>, pp. 13-14, 84. <b>Mental disability or confusion does not qualify for assistance, only instruction.</b> The voter must choose assistance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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. <b>Manual</b>, p. 84.</li> </ul> <p><b>The assister(s) must always follow voter's direction.</b> 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.</p> <p>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. <b>Manual</b>, p. 86</p> <p>Supplies in every polling place should include the ballot viewer (magnifying glass which enlarges the type). 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 <b>Manual</b>, pp. 14, 84-86.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If a voter has “forgotten” his/her eyeglasses and the ballot viewer is not sufficient, the voter should go home to get them. Drunkenness and drug intoxication are not qualifications for assistance; neither is mental disability.</b> Point intoxicated voters to the booth and call them back after 5 minutes to deposit the ballot. See: <b>Manual</b>, p. 84 regarding eligibility for assistance.</li> </ul>

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<p>Electioneering</p>	<p>Electioneering is perfectly legal away from the <b>pollingplace</b> but may not take place <b>inside the room of the pollingplace or within 100 feet of the entrance to the room in which the pollingplace is located</b> if the building is a public building. In a school, church or religious institution building, the entire building or even the entire property <i>can be</i> a campaign-free zone. See <b>Manual</b>, pp. 4, 49.</p> <p>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 election official. Take copious notes on offenders, of course. Election judges frequently solicit voters when demonstrating voting procedures or at the voting booths.</p> <p>“All candidates and representatives from all political parties must be treated equally.” <b>Manual</b>, p. 4.</p>
<p>Chain balloting</p>	<p>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 pollingplace, 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.</p>
<p>Number of ballot cards taken or issued doesn't match with the number of applications completed</p>	<p>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 <b>the campaign office</b>.</p>
<p>Paper ballot problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-marked ballots for cooperative, compliant or intimidated voters.</li> <li>• Judges marking an identifying mark on the paper ballot so that it will be invalidated when going through the ballot scanner.</li> <li>• Judges deliberately not initialing ballots of "wrong" voters</li> </ul>

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	<p>so that their ballots will not be counted on the first attempt. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 71, for the judges' duty to initial ballots at Station 2. "If a ballot card is ejected because it did not have judge's initials, the judge at Station 3 must initial it." <b>Manual</b>, p. 83.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical scan voting booths can be 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 touchscreen voting unit is to be moved. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 85.</li> <li>• For voters who can not use paper ballots, the County offers audio voting on the touchscreen machines. See <b>Manual</b>, pp. 86-90.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <b>Manual</b>, pp. 80-81 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.</li> <li>• Judges may "forget" to issue a privacy shield, in order to be able to look at a voter's ballot. See <b>Manual</b>, pp. 71, 80 for judges' obligation to issue a privacy shield.</li> <li>• Judges sometimes take voters' ballots and stack them up for later insertion into the scanner. Who knows what is done to these ballots before they are later fed into the optical scanner, indeed if they ever get there?          "The judge should stand near the scanner to assist any voter who requests help. The judge should give the voter enough space to allow the individual to insert the ballot privately."          See <b>Manual</b>, p. 80.</li> </ul>
<p>Moving ballots for the count</p>	<p>In Cook County ballots are to be counted in the precinct. <b>They must be counted in the precinct polling place except when the ballot counting machinery fails.</b> In that case, the judges,</p>

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	<p>materials, <b>and the pollwatchers</b> 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 the police officer and/or State's Attorney to stop the move. Call the <b>campaign office</b> and the Board immediately.</p>
<p>Closing the polling place</p>	<p>Pollwatchers are entitled to remain in the polling place while the votes are counted and the equipment is packed and locked. <b>Manual</b>, pp. 9, 10, 91. While people may argue that a pollwatcher has the legal right to enter and re-enter a polling place after it is closed, <b>pollwatchers are best advised to enter polling places before 7:00 p.m.</b> to observe the count since <b>the general practice is to lock the doors at 7:00 p.m. and ignore people attempting to enter thereafter.</b></p>
<p>Absentee ballots</p>	<p>Any voter who has voted in early voting or on an absentee ballot <b>may not vote</b> in the polling place. It is too late for him to change his choices and he certainly is not permitted to vote twice.</p> <p>Each precinct will receive a list of eligible voters on election day. Before the polls open (or as soon as the list arrives), the judges of election are to go through this list, stamping the ballot application of every voter listed as having voted Absentee, Early, or Grace-Period (A, E, or G) with the "EARLY/ABSENTEE VOTER" stamp. These voters are not, of course, permitted to vote. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 51.</p> <p>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 <b>may not vote</b> unless he presents his unsubmitted absentee ballot in exchange for an in-precinct ballot.</p>
<p>Canvassing valid write-in votes</p>	<p>The procedures for identifying and counting write-in votes are very specifically detailed in the Judges' Manual. See <b>Manual</b>, p. 102-103.</p>

**POLLWATCHERS' GUIDE  
FOR SOLVING ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

**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 Chicago suburbs to vote - once and only once - 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 stamp the pre-printed ballot applications after reviewing the list of early and absentee voters? \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_