

August 6, 2013

Election Integrity Monitoring Program

Michigan Election Reform Alliance.org

General Guidelines

Precinct Monitor Checklist

Absentee Count Board Monitor Checklist

MERA Monitors Contacts:

Jan BenDor: 734/484-1744
Cell phone: 734/478-7546

Michael-David BenDor: 734/484-1628
Cell phone: 734/478-6803

Citizens for Detroit's Future
2650 Gratiot--313.533.8764

Voter Registration Lookup Online:

www.michigan.gov/vote

City of Detroit Clerk's Office
313-876-0190

Secretary of State Elections Line
1-800-292-5973

Legal/Law Enforcement Contacts:

Michigan State Police
Wayland Post: Trooper Doan 269-792-2213

Detroit Police
911

1-866-OUR-VOTE National Lawyers Committee Election Protection hotline

General Guidelines

Arrival inside the Polling Place

As a challenger, you will receive an official credential from an organization that has applied and been approved for appointing challengers under Michigan Election Law.

There can be only two challengers from the same group inside a polling place at the same time.

On arrival inside, show your challenger credential to the Precinct Chair. You may explain that our purpose is to monitor the election process overall, NOT to challenge individual voters. (Otherwise, you might be asked which one of the two are going to make challenges.)

The organization or the precinct chair should provide you with a badge labeled "Election Challenger." You should not have any other identifying information on this badge or on your person. (No group name, no campaign or candidate name.)

As a challenger, you can circulate around the polling place or count board, but may speak only to the Chair when making requests to see but **not touch** election materials. The Chair may authorize you to speak to a particular election worker. You should not speak to any voter while inside a precinct. Please go outside to speak with a voter who needs your assistance.

You have the right to see **all materials** (except a ballot that still has an identifying number tab) but you may have to wait for a reasonable time to have your request fulfilled.

Bring a clipboard or other writing surface for convenience in completing the Monitor Checklist.

Also bring a watch so you can note the time of each of your observations. (This time record is very important to our overall evaluation of the precinct.) Do not depend on your cell phone because the Precinct Chair may ask you to leave it in your car or to keep it out of sight.

If you have questions about anything that occurs inside or outside the polling place, please call one of the MERA project coordinators on the cover sheet. If you believe you are witnessing an illegal procedure, bring it first to the attention of the Precinct Chair as politely as you can. If no corrective action is taken, call the Police immediately.

The following laws establish the rights of challengers and also the right of the public to request the results of voting at the precinct. At the close of the canvass process in each precinct, while the election workers are printing the tabulator report, you can request a copy of the tabulator printout to turn in with your checklist report.

168.733 Challengers; space in polling place; rights; space at counting board; expulsion for cause; protection; threat or intimidation.

(1) The board of election inspectors shall provide space for the challengers within the polling place that enables the challengers to observe the election procedure and each person applying to vote. A challenger may do 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Under the scrutiny of an election inspector, inspect without handling the poll books as ballots are issued to electors and the electors' names being entered in the poll book.
 - (b) Observe the manner in which the duties of the election inspectors are being performed.
 - (c) Challenge the voting rights of a person who the challenger has good reason to believe is not a registered elector.
 - (d) Challenge an election procedure that is not being properly performed.
 - (e) Bring to an election inspector's attention any of the following:
 - (i) Improper handling of a ballot by an elector or election inspector.
 - (ii) A violation of a regulation made by the board of election inspectors pursuant to section 742 [time in booth for voting ballot.]
 - (iii) Campaigning being performed by an election inspector or other person in violation of section 744 [within 100 feet from any entrance to the building in which the polling place is located].
 - (iv) A violation of election law or other prescribed election procedure.
 - (f) Remain during the canvass of votes and until the statement of returns is duly signed and made.
 - (g) Examine without handling each ballot as it is being counted.
 - (h) Keep records of votes cast and other election procedures as the challenger desires.
 - (i) Observe the recording of absent voter ballots on voting machines.
- (2) The board of election inspectors shall provide space for each challenger, if any, at each counting board that enables the challengers to observe the counting of the ballots. A challenger at the counting board may do 1 or more of the activities allowed in subsection (1), as applicable.
- (3) Any evidence of drinking of alcoholic beverages or disorderly conduct is sufficient cause for the expulsion of a challenger from the polling place or the counting board. The election inspectors and other election officials on duty shall protect a challenger in the discharge of his or her duties.
- (4) A person shall not threaten or intimidate a challenger while performing an activity allowed under subsection (1). A challenger shall not threaten or intimidate an elector while the elector is entering the polling place, applying to vote, entering the voting compartment, voting, or leaving the polling place.

168.807 Election results; availability.

Immediately after the canvass has been completed, the result, stating the total number of votes received by each person voted for in said precinct for any office and the number of votes for and the number of votes against any proposed constitutional amendment or other submitted proposition, shall be made available to interested persons who may be present.