

Watcher Certificate

For Use on Election Day

By a Party Committee, Candidate or Independent Body

Section 8-500, Election Law

I/We, the undersigned, being _____
(Party Chair/Secretary/Secretary-Treasurer)

of the _____
(political party/independent body)

to a watch election on to be held _____
(watch election date)

in _____ district(s), in the town or village of _____
(election date)

_____ within Broome County, New York.

Signature

Title

***Poll Watchers must
 come with their
 certificate in hand!***



POLL WATCHER'S GUIDE

Broome County Board of Elections

60 Hawley Street

PO Box 1766

Binghamton, NY 13902

607-778-2172

www.BroomeVotes.com

OVERVIEW

To ensure fair and honest elections, New York State law provides for appointing Poll Watchers to observe voting at the polls. Poll Watchers are designated by candidates, political parties, or independent organizations which have candidates on the ballot and/or political committees.

The roll of the Poll Watcher is to observe elections at the polling sites on behalf of a particular candidate, political party or organization and where they observe irregularities, report these observations to either the Elections Inspector and/or the Board of Elections. New York State provides for 3 Poll Watchers per Election District at any one time from each candidate, political committee, or independent body.

POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS

Poll Watchers must be qualified voters in Broome County. They must be certified in writing by a candidate, or a chairperson or secretary of a political committee or independent body and must present a certificate for each Election District to the Elections Inspector for that Election District. It is sufficient for a Poll Watcher to file one certificate which shall remain in effect throughout Election Day at the Election District appearing on the certificate. A facsimile of a Poll Watcher's Certificate appears on the reverse side of this guide.

POLL WATCHER RIGHTS

The Poll Watcher *may*:

- Be present at the polling place at least 15 minutes before the unlocking and examination of any voting machine or ballot box at the opening of polls, until after the signing of the inspector's canvass at the close of polls.
- Before any voter casts his/her vote, a watcher may challenge voters through the board of inspectors whom they believe are not qualified to vote.

- Examine active sheets (i.e. handwritten list) when the inspectors are not busy as long as they do not interfere with inspectors or election proceedings.
- Sit at a close proximity to the Inspector's table but not at it.
- Notify the Inspectors that they have observed an individual soliciting votes or electioneering within the polling place or within the 100 foot distance markers immediately outside of the polling place.

POLL WATCHER LIMITATIONS

The Poll Watcher *may not*:

- Be a candidate for public office to be voted for by the voters of the Election District in the same Election District in which the watcher is to serve.
- Electioneer in any manner.
- Assist in the conduct of the elections.
- Talk to the voters before or after they vote.
- Tamper with any election materials, including what is on the Inspector's table.
- Interfere with the election process.
- Accompany a voter to the voting booth.

If there are any questions or concerns please call the Broome County Board of Elections at 607-778-2172.