

John H. Merrill
Alabama Secretary of State
P.O. Box 5616
Montgomery, AL 36103-5616



Poll Watchers

Primary

1. One watcher per qualified candidate, in that election, is allowed in the voting place. [§17-13-11]
2. A watcher must have a written appointment letter or document signed by a candidate. [§17-13-11]
3. The written appointment letter or document is, to then, be sent to the inspector. [§17-13-11]

General

1. One watcher in the voting place for each party or organization that has nominated candidates. [§17-8-7(a)]
2. A watcher must have a written appointment letter or document by the chairman of the party's county executive committee or other organization that has nominated candidates. [§17-8-7(a)]
3. The written appointment letter or document is, to then, be sent to the inspector [§17-8-7(a)]

No Candidate

1. Each political party may appoint a watcher in the voting place. [§17-8-7(a)]
2. Only the chairman of the parties executive committee may appoint a poll watcher by means of a written appointment letter or document. [§17-8-7(a)]
3. The written appointment letter or document is, to then, be sent to the inspector. [§17-8-7(a)]

NO EXCEPTION:

1. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Poll watchers shall be sworn to faithfully observe the rule of law prescribed for the conduct of elections. [§17-8-7(c)]
2. **PRIVILEGES:** Poll watchers have the right to observe and monitor all conduct and records of the election throughout election day. [§17-8-7(b)(1-6)]
3. **LIMITATIONS:** Poll watchers may not disturb voters, attempt to influence voters, campaign, or display or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside the polling place. [§17-8-7(d)]
4. **PENALTIES:** Any official who refuses to allow any poll watcher to exercise his/her rights as a watcher shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C Misdemeanor. [§17-17-22]