



Washington County Board of Elections

Poll Watchers

- Poll Watchers **must present** Watcher's Certificate (example below)
- One watcher per candidate and one watcher per political party are permitted in the polling place at a time
- Watchers **are not** permitted to wear political clothing or accessories
- Watchers **are not** permitted to speak to voters
- Watchers **are not** permitted to take photos or recordings
- Watchers **are** permitted to view the numbered list of voters books when not in use

Washington County, Pennsylvania
 Washington, Pennsylvania

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION

THIS WILL CERTIFY _____
 has been regularly appointed a WATCHER in and for the election district of _____

 Wherein the said watcher is a qualified resident and a qualified elector, by _____

 who is a candidate for the office of _____

 representing the _____
 to serve at the PRIMARY ELECTION, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of the 417th Section of an Act approved June 3, 1937, P.L. 1333 as amended.

SAMPLE

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed as of OCTOBER 19, 2021.



Dara Deegan

Larry Maggi

Mark Shuman

 County Board of Commissioners

WATCHER'S CERTIFICATE
 PRIMARY ELECTION, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021



Washington County Board of Elections

Appointment of Poll Watchers

Section 417 of the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2687, provides for the appointment of watchers. Under section 417 (a), “Each candidate for nomination or election at any election shall be entitled to appoint two watchers for each election district in which such candidate is voted for.” In addition, “Each political party and each political body which has nominated candidates in accordance with the provisions of this act, shall be entitled to appoint three watchers at any general, municipal, or special election for each election district in which the candidates of such party or political body are to be voted for. Such watchers shall serve without expense to the county.” 25 P.S. § 2687 (a).

Act 2004-97 amended section 417 (b) of the Code to as follows:

Each watcher so appointed must be a qualified registered elector of the county in which the election district for which the watcher was appointed is located. Each watcher so appointed shall be authorized to serve in the election district for which the watcher was appointed and, when the watcher is not serving in the election district for which the watcher was appointed, in any other election district in the county in which the watcher is a qualified registered elector...It shall not be a requirement that a watcher be a resident of the election district for which the watcher is appointed...Each watcher shall be provided with a certificate from the county board of elections, stating his/her name and the name of the candidate, party, or political body he/she represents. Watchers shall be required to show their certificates when requested to do so.

25 P.S. § 2687 (b) (emphasis added).

Thus, under section 417 (a) of the Code, a candidate, political party, or political body is entitled to appoint as a watcher in any election district of a county any registered qualified elector of that county, without regard to the election district in which the watcher is a registered qualified elector within the same county.

And as amended by Act 97, any watcher appointed under section 417 (a) of the Code is authorized to serve in any other election district in the same county when he or she is not serving in the election district for which the watcher was appointed.

Rights of Poll Watchers

Section 417 of the Code, 25 P.S. § 2687, outlines the rights of duly appointed poll watchers.

- Watchers allowed in the polling place are permitted to keep a list of voters. Section 417(b)
- Watchers allowed in the polling place are entitled to challenge the qualifications of voters in accordance with the provisions of section 1210(d) of the Code (25 P.S. § 3050(d)). Section 417(b)
- Watchers allowed in the polling place are entitled to inspect the voting check list and either of the two numbered lists of voters during those intervals when voters are not present in the polling place, provided that the watchers do not mark upon or alter any of these official records. (The judge of election must either personally supervise or delegate supervision of such inspection of the list or lists.) Section 417(b)