

LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION OR DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN PENNSYLVANIA

**Voter suppression and voter intimidation are illegal.
Report any activity that threatens, harasses, or intimidates voters.**

VOTER CHALLENGES AT THE POLLS

- Pennsylvania only allows Election Day challenges to voter eligibility on two grounds:
 - Identity – that the voter is not who she claims to be, OR
 - Residence – the voter has moved out of the election district. This type of challenge is very limited, since a voter who has moved out of the district and not updated their registration may still vote by regular ballot in their old precinct one last time as long as they provide an updated address at the polling place.
- Challenges can only be brought by election officials, certified poll watchers, or qualified voters who are in the polling place to vote. Good-faith reasons for bringing challenges are required.
- Even under a valid challenge, a voter may vote by regular ballot if another registered voter who lives in the district signs a statement under oath confirming the voter's identity and/or residence. The voter may also have to affirm her name, signature and address. If the voter cannot find another person to vouch for her, she must be given a provisional ballot.
- **If you are challenged on Election Day, do NOT leave without voting. At the very least, vote a provisional ballot.**

Remember

- If you are challenged at the polls but are able to sign the affirmation and have someone vouch for you you MUST be allowed to vote a regular ballot!
- Challenges about whether a voter is qualified to be registered may NOT be made at the polling place on Election Day. Such challenges must be made before the election and filed with the Board of Elections—not at the precinct.
- Absentee challenges are also treated by a different process and require the challenger to pay \$10 for each challenge with notice to the voter and an opportunity to be heard.

MORE INFO



Advancement Project is a next generation, civil rights action tank advancing universal opportunity and a just democracy. For more information go to: www.apvote.org

INTIMIDATION AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

Any person, corporation, or police officer may **not**:

- Intimidate or coerce voters, threaten force, violence, injury, restraint, damage, harm, or loss, in order to get a person to vote or not vote for a particular candidate or issue;
- Use abduction, duress, coercion, or other forcible or fraudulent method to interfere with a person's right to vote; or
- Send misleading information that confuses voters and prevents them from voting.

Employers may **not**:

- Place an employee's paycheck in an envelope with any political motto or language to influence the employee's vote;
- Post any notice in the workplace implying that there will be repercussions at work if a certain candidate is elected or defeated.

Election officers may **not** knowingly refuse the vote of a registered voter.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN POLLING PLACE

A commissioned police officer, whether in uniform or not, may not be within 100 feet of the polling place during the election unless she/he is voting, serving a warrant, or is called upon to preserve the peace.

ACTIVITIES IN OR NEAR POLLING PLACE

No one may electioneer or solicit votes for any political party or candidate, in or within ten feet of a polling place. No political materials can be left behind or posted in a polling place. Only election officials, voters (no more than ten at one time), people assisting voters, and police officers in the act of voting or who have been called to preserve the peace, are allowed within ten feet of the polling place while voting is in progress. Everyone else, including individuals handing out campaign literature, must remain at least ten feet away. No one can get in the way of voters being able to get in and out of the polling place.

PLEASE REPORT VOTER INTIMIDATION OR DECEPTIVE PRACTICES TO:

- Your county District Attorney's office
- Your Local Board of Elections
- U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline: 800-253-3931; TTY line 877-267-8971;
- **Election Protection Hotlines:** 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) or 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682).
- Advancement Project Voter Protection: 202-728-9557;
Marian Schneider, PA Consulting Attorney, mschneider@advancementproject.org;



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