

A large, red-tinted image of an elephant's head and trunk, serving as the background for the slide. The elephant is facing left, and its trunk is prominent in the foreground. The image is overlaid with a dark blue banner containing the title and a white banner containing the organization's name. There are also diagonal red and white stripes on the left side of the slide.

Poll Challenger Training for In-Person Voting

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE



Poll Challenger vs Poll Watcher

- Poll Challenger
 - A duly credentialed registered voter in Michigan
 - Not a candidate for elected office in the precinct they are serving in
 - Whose function is to monitor the election to make sure the proper voting procedures are being followed as well as track voter participation
- Poll Watcher
 - No Requirements
 - Limited Rights
 - No Respect
- ***Never refer to yourself as a poll watcher, always a poll challenger***



Poll Challengers CAN:

- Stand behind the voter registration table (where voters show IDs and receive ballots).
- View voter records and IDs as individuals sign in to vote (computer/ID/manuals).
- Use cell phones in the polling location if it doesn't interfere with the voting process (step outside to make a phone call).
- Track information in the polling location if it does not interfere with the voting process.
- View voting machines (Obtain permission from poll captain).
- View sealed envelopes and #'s (bags which contain ballots at the end of the day).
- View voting records at the end of the day (tallies).



Poll Challengers CANNOT:

- *Speak with voters - this is critical*
- Touch any voting materials
- Interfere with the voting process – in any way, shape, or form
- Be disruptive of the voting process (speaking on phone)
- Record any information (Audio or Video) – again, please cover the lens on your cell phone as previously mentioned
- Prohibit any person from voting -We can only obtain information in case a ballot is challenged in a court of law
- Observe voters while in the process of voting – they cannot be anywhere near the voting booth
- Assist voters at any point during the voting process

When in doubt, please ask the poll captain if you have any questions. If the poll captain prohibits a challenge, the issue is over.

- Please record the voters name and address and call the hotline



Reasons To Challenge a Voter:

- C.A.R.N.
 - Citizen – if you have valid reason to believe *the voter is not a United States citizen*
 - Age – if you have valid reason to believe *the voter is not 18 years or older*
 - Residency – if you have valid reason to believe *the voter does not live where they are registered*
 - Not Registered – if you have valid reason to believe *the voter is not registered* (doesn't appear in the poll book and doesn't have a receipt from the clerk's office)
- Challenge all voters who come to vote on Election Day but the poll book says they already voted absentee



How to Challenge a Voter:

- Tell the poll worker, *“I would like to challenge this voter.”*
- After the challenge is made and accepted, the challenged person takes the oath.
- After the oath has been administered, the precinct chairperson or a designated election inspector may question the challenged voter.
 - Election law stipulates that the questions be confined to the person’s qualifications as a voter (citizenship, age, residency and date of registration).
- A challenged voter is permitted to vote a specially prepared “challenged ballot” if the answers given under oath prove that he or she is qualified to vote in the precinct.
 - A challenged voter may not vote if he or she refuses to take the oath, refuses to answer appropriate questions under oath or is found to be not qualified to vote through the answers given under oath.
- A complete record of the challenge must be entered on the “CHALLENGED VOTERS” page in the Poll Book.
 - The record must include the name of the person making the challenge; the time of the challenge; the name, address and telephone number of the person challenged; and any other pertinent information.
- Call the Hotline!



Reasons to Challenge a Process

- Voters are not being asked for their ID
- Campaigning is happening inside a polling location
- Single election worker is assisting voters
- Literature is left in voting booths
- Challenger is not allowed behind the table
- Any Challenger is handling election materials
- Voter not in Poll Book voting a regular ballot



How to Challenge a Process

- Inform the precinct chairperson that you have a concern about their process
- Cite the process issue and use SOS materials to show the precinct chairperson the correct procedure
- Listen to the precinct chairperson's explanation
- Call our hotline!



What to Report on Election Day

- Jammed machines / other machine issues
- Voter ID not being checked, and affidavit not being signed
- Campaigning in the polling location
- Ballot supply issues
- Improper voter assistance
- Election Inspectors refusing poll challengers
- Voting beyond legal hours
 - Walk with polling captain at 8:00 PM and mutually agree on last person in line
- Any regular ballot issued to someone not in the poll book
 - However, with the change in 2018, if someone brings in their receipt from same day voter registration, they won't show up in the poll book, but they are still able to vote.



Opening and Closing Precinct Locations

- Each precinct should open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
- If precinct opens late, take note and call the hotline.
- If precinct captain allows new voters in line after 8:00 p.m., make a note of the voter's name and ballot number, and call the legal hotline immediately
- Observe and note the following items:
 - Name of Head Precinct Worker
 - Voting Machine Serial Numbers and # of Votes
 - Number of Voting Booths
 - Were Facilities Handicap Accessible?
 - Were Election Instruction Posters Displayed?



Opening and Closing Precinct Checklist

Form for Opening a Precinct

POLL CHALLENGER _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

CITY/TWP. _____

LOCATION (CHURCH/SCHOOL, EXT....) _____

PRECINCT/WARD # _____

PRECINCT CAPTAIN _____

HOW MANY VOTING MACHINES AVAILABLE _____

HOW MANY VOTING BOOTHS AVAILABLE _____

VOTING MACHINE NUMBER	VOTER COUNTER DISPLAY
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____

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Form for Closing a Precinct

POLL CHALLENGER _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

1. CITY/TWP. _____

2. LOCATION (CHURCH/SCHOOL, EXT....) _____

3. PRECINCT/WARD # _____

4. PRECINCT CAPTAIN _____

5. HOW MANY VOTING MACHINES AVBLE _____ 6. HOW MANY VOTING BOOTHS AVBLE _____

VOTING MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER	VOTER COUNTER DISPLAY
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

8. LAST PERSON IN LINE WHEN POLLS CLOSED AT 8PM _____

9. VOTER SEAL # _____

10. WHAT TIME DID THE BALLOTS LEAVE THE POLLING LOCATION _____

11. WHO WAS VERIFYING VOTER ELIGIBILITY _____
FOR PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

12. HOW MANY TOTAL BALLOTS CAST _____	13. HOW MANY SPOILED BALLOTS WERE CAST _____
14. HOW MANY ABSENTEE VOTES WERE CAST _____	15. HOW MANY VOTERS WERE TURNED AWAY AFTER THE POLLS WERE CLOSED _____
16. HOW MANY PEOPLE VOTED AFTER THE POLLS CLOSED _____	17. HOW MANY PROVISIONAL BALLOTS WERE GIVEN TO VOTERS _____

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REPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

STEP 1

Determine what the issue is and address it with the precinct captain

STEP 2

Document the issue

STEP 3

Report the issue to the hotline or by submitting it online

STEP 4

Assess whether the issue was mitigated, if not state counsel will proceed with next steps

You must document and record all relevant facts and information

Scan the QR code below and sign up to be a poll challenger for the August primary election!

SCAN ME

