

Davidson County Board of Elections Buffer Zone Policy

State law provides special protections for voters inside the buffer zone at voting sites. The buffer zone is measured from the door of the entrance into the voting enclosure. The buffer zone shall be no more than 50 feet from the entrance of the voting enclosure. The area in the buffer zone exists so that voters can access the voting place free of electioneering. Electioneering activity and all forms of interference are prohibited in the buffer zone and in the voting place itself. The Chief Judge and judges of election are responsible for ensuring voters have unimpeded access into the buffer zone and voting enclosure, and are authorized by law to maintain order at the polls. All candidates and electioneers are expected to adhere to the Guidelines for Electioneering During Elections document that can be found on the Davidson County Board of Elections website.

Below is the Davidson County Board of Elections Buffer Zone Policy.

1. First Violation – Verbal reminder of the rules
2. Second Violation – Verbal Warning
3. Third Violation – Written Warning
4. Fourth Violation – Removal from the premises for the day and contact to their respective party. In regards to early voting, after two violations that result in removal from the premises, the repeat violator will not be allowed on premises for the remainder of early voting at any early voting site.
5. Any physical altercation will result in immediate removal from the premises and the violator(s) will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the election cycle at any polling site. If needed, law enforcement will be contacted.

Buffer Zone law can be found at G.S. § 163-166.4.

Voter Intimidation

G.S. § 163-274(7)

For any person, directly or indirectly, to discharge or threaten to discharge from employment, or otherwise intimidate or oppose any legally qualified voter on account of any vote such voter may cast or consider or intend to cast, or not to cast, or which that voter may have failed to cast. Shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

Intimidating an Election Official

G.S. § 163-275(11)

For any person, by threats, menaces or in any other manner, to intimidate or attempt to intimidate any Chief Judge, Judge of Election, or other Election Officer in the discharge of duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election. Shall be deemed a felony.

Assaulting an Election Official

G.S. § 163-275(10)

For any person to assault any Chief Judge, Judge of Election or other Election Officer while in the discharge of duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election. Shall be deemed a felony.