



GUIDELINES FOR ELECTIONEERING DURING ELECTIONS

1. Conduct Outside of the Polling Place

- Respect the right of all voters to participate in the election without fear of intimidation or violence. Intimidating voters is a state and federal crime.
- Be courteous towards those at the polling place, regardless of any difference of opinion.
- Always remain civil and calm. While differences of opinion are expected and should be respected, resolve any disagreements or disputes amicably.
- Disagreements or disputes should not involve profanity or aggressive behaviors.
- Confine electioneering and issue advocacy to designated area outside of the polling place.
- Election officials strictly enforce the marked line beyond which no electioneering or loitering is permitted.
- These guidelines apply to One-Stop Early Voting locations and Election Day Polling locations.

2. Buffer Zone (G.S. 163-166.4 (a))

- Breaching and moving the designated buffer zone is not permitted.
- No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activities inside the polling place or inside the buffer zone.

- Dimensions of the buffer zone at each polling place shall be no more than 50 feet and no less than 25 feet from the entrance to the polling place. This determination is made by the Chief Judge of the Precinct.
- Electioneers may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising and signage, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the designated area outside of the buffer zone.
- Not all polling locations allow for political signage or literature distribution. You must verify the documentation on the Candidate Resources tab on votedavidsoncountync.com for detailed information about each polling place.

3. Area for Election-Related Activity (G.S. 163-166.4(b))

- Volunteers and electioneers may distribute campaign literature, place political signs, solicit votes, and engage in election-related activities only outside of the designated buffer zone.
- Privately owned polling places might have restrictions on campaign literature and/or placement of political signs on their property on Election Day. Volunteers and electioneers must check the documentation on the Candidate Resources tab on votedavidsoncountync.com for detailed information about each polling place.

4. Curbside Voting

- The voter's vehicle is considered a polling place when curbside voting. Electioneers must respect it as such and not encroach on the designated curbside area. The buffer zone shall be at least six feet from the vehicle on all sides, or a greater distance if possible. Electioneers shall not enter the buffer zone.
- Approaching voters in their vehicles in the curbside area will not be tolerated.

5. Party Observers and Runners (G.S. 163-45)

- Only appointed observers and runners are permitted in the polling place.
- The party chair must provide the names of observers and runners to the Davidson County Board of Elections prior to 5:00 PM on the day prior to Election Day.
- An observer shall do no electioneering at the polling place and shall in no manner impede the voting process or interfere or communicate with or observe any voter casting a ballot.
- The runner may receive a voter list from the precinct. No runner may enter the voting enclosure except when necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the list. The runner must leave immediately after being provided with the list.

EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED ACTS THAT ILLUSTRATE PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR DURING ELECTIONS

1. Federal law prohibits those around the polling place from displaying badges, uniforms, or credentials that reasonable individuals would interpret to mean that the person is a law-enforcement officer. (See 18 U.S.C. § 241 and Williams v. United States, 341 U.S. 97 (1951)) Ex. Individuals outside the buffer zone wearing "SECURITY" insignia and informing voters that they are "monitoring" the polling place.
2. It is a crime to interfere with the ability of a voter to access the polling place. Ex. Individuals in the parking lot physically delay or prevent cars from parking.
3. No person may engage in election-related activity within the buffer zone. (G.S. 163-166.4 (a)). Ex. An electioneer stands by the entrance door of the polling place and distributes campaign literature.

4. It is a crime for any person to commit any boisterous act that disturbs any election official in their performance of his or her statutory duties. (G.S. 163-274 (a)(5)). Ex. Individuals use sound amplification to make racial slurs or otherwise insult those presenting to vote for their preferred candidate, and the chief judge has told the individual that their noise is causing a disruption inside the voting enclosure.
5. It is a federal crime to intimidate, threaten, or coerce anyone to interfere with an individual's right to vote or not vote in an election; this includes conduct intended to force prospective voters to vote against their preferences (18 U.S.C. § 594). Ex.: Individuals outside the buffer zone threaten a voter if the voter does not vote for or against a particular candidate or party.
6. It is both a violation of state and federal law for any voter to challenge an individual on the basis of their ethnicity, religion, language fluency, or national origin (G.S. 163-90.1(a)). Ex.: An individual attempts to enter a voter challenge on another voter without proper basis.
7. Additional examples of voter intimidation.
 - Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone approach only voters who appear to be of a certain ethnic group to ask whether they speak English or to demand that they verify their citizenship.
 - Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone follow a non-English speaker who is receiving assistance from a person of their choice and accuse them of committing voter fraud.
 - Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone yell insults or profanity at people who received assistance in the voting enclosure.

For questions or concerns regarding electioneering during elections, contact the Davidson County Board of Elections at (336) 242-2190.