

WATCHER CERTIFICATE

Section 8-500 Election Law

I/We, the undersigned, being 1. _____ of
(chair/candidate)

the 2. _____ party, do hereby appoint
(political party/ independent body)

3. _____ in the County of Madison to
(watcher's name)

be a watcher for the election to be held on 4. _____ in the
(date of election)

5. _____ ward/election district of the city, town or village of

6. _____ .

7. _____
Signature

8. _____
Title

ALL SECTIONS OF THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE FILLED OUT

1. Certificate must be issued by the Chairperson or Secretary of a political party or independent body. (In a Primary Election a Candidate may issue a certificate)
2. Name if the political party (Democratic, Republican, Conservative, etc.) or independent body (ex. Better Roads, People's Choice) must be entered here.
3. Poll watchers name must be entered here.
4. The correct date of the Election must be entered here.
5. The ward (if in City) and the district must be entered here.
6. The name of the City or Town must be added here
7. Signature of person issuing the certificate (faxed signatures or photocopies are acceptable)
8. Title of the person issuing the certificate. Same as #1.

POLL WATCHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

To ensure fair and honest elections, New York State law provides for appointing Poll Watchers to observe voting at the polls.

Poll Watchers are designated by a party chairman or an independent body whose candidate is on the ballot.

THE ROLE OF THE POLL WATCHER

- ❖ To observe elections at the polling sites on behalf of a particular candidate, political party, or organization.
- ❖ If/when they observe irregularities, they are to report these observations to either the Election Inspectors or the County Board of Elections.

POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Each watcher must be a qualified voter of the city or county in which he/she is to serve.
- ❖ Poll Watchers must present a certificate in writing (issued by the chairman or secretary of the political party, independent body or candidate) to the Inspectors of the election district they are assigned to. (one certificate per Poll Watcher)

POLL WATCHER'S LIMITATIONS

The Poll Watcher may NOT:

- ❖ Assist in any manner in the conduct of the election
- ❖ Electioneer at the pollsite
- ❖ Greet voters, handle any official documents or otherwise interfere with the duties of the inspectors
- ❖ Have more than one watcher at a time in the Election Inspector's area

POLL WATCHER'S RIGHTS

The Poll Watcher may:

- ❖ Be present at the polls at least 15 minutes before opening to view the opening of the voting system

- ❖ Collect the names of voters as the Election Inspectors check them off the list

- ❖ Challenge persons who they believe are not qualified to vote

- ❖ Observe the canvass of the vote after the polls close

COURTESY AND GOOD MANNERS

- ❖ When the voter enters the room, the first contact should be with the Inspectors at the sign-in table.
- ❖ When the voter signs in, Inspectors are asked to loudly repeat the voter's name. The Poll Watcher should record the name at that time.
- ❖ ***Poll Watchers can not handle election materials.*** Poll Watchers may request a voter list from the Board of Elections to check-off voters. They may not take the official Inspector list at any time.
- ❖ Tables, chairs, and work area must be cleaned up before leaving at the end of the day.