

Poll Watcher Training

2025 General Election



Disclaimer

This training is current and is kept as up-to-date as possible as we receive new information from FCOE.

Please refer to our RESOURCES website for any updated information:

<https://fairfaxgop.org/fairfax-gop-poll-watcher-resources/>

1. INTRODUCTION



Training Introduction

Election Integrity is the right to vote in a secure, free and fair election – one of our most basic American rights and one on which many of our other rights depend.

Poll Watching, or being an Authorized Representative for the Republican Party, is your role in helping to maintain Election Integrity.

- **Election Officers (EO)** are the 1st line of defense against election problems – they help run elections for Fairfax County and are trained by the County
- **Poll Watchers (PW)** are the 2nd line of defense – a second set of eyes to catch problems – are authorized by each party or independent candidate
 - **Both roles require you must be a registered voter in Virginia (§24.2-604C)**

Now let's look at WHAT you as a Poll Watcher need to KNOW and DO!

Training Objectives

1. Teach/refresh Poll Watchers on the relevant election laws, procedures, and equipment for the 2025 General Election in Fairfax County
 - This is NOT a class on how to run the equipment; Poll Watchers do not touch any equipment, ballots, or forms
 - We have other courses scheduled for working the election: 1) Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) for Absentee Ballot processing and 2) the post- election Canvassing.
1. Teach/refresh Poll Watchers on their roles and responsibilities, how to gather information to report online, and what to do if improper procedures are observed
2. Provide an online report template for you to report your observations online after your poll watching shift

What You Already Can Access

You already have access to the Poll Watcher resources

<https://fairfaxgop.org/fairfax-gop-poll-watcher-resources/>

- Online **LINKS** to the classroom training slides and the self-study training
- **POCKET GUIDE**, a one-page reminder sheet of all the important points of the training
Print a copy as a refresher for when you poll watch.
- Paper **REPORT FORM** so you can take notes of what you'll need to report on-line after your shift is over. Print a copy for **each time** you poll watch.

Once you are trained, you will receive an **AUTHORIZATION LETTER** and online links to sign up for **Shifts To Poll Watch**. Shifts are 3-4 hours long. You'll get a confirmation email for each shift sign-up and a reminder email 24 hours the day before your shift.

- Keep your confirmation email – it will have a self-cancel link if you need to change your shift time

What You Should Do When Poll Watching

1. Go to your shift – take a copy of your Authorization Letter, pocket guide, and paper report form.
2. Introduce yourself to the Chief and offer your Authorization Letter. You'll receive a sticker to wear indicating you are an AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE. It will have a red stripe that reads REPUBLICAN. (Dems have a blue stripe that reads DEMOCRAT).
3. Observe at the polls and take notes of the information requested on your paper report form. If you observe an event of any kind, take notes. If something unusual happens, take notes and/or report it to the hotline report right away:
804-600-4809 / help@virginia.gop
4. Once your shift is complete, transcribe the info from your paper notes form into the on-line reporting system.

What's New in 2025

1. There are two elections this Year and there may even be a third:

- The Special Election was on September 9th, and the General Election will be on November 4th

2. New machines and new nomenclature



E-Pollbook (formerly the Poll Pad)



Ballot Marking Device (BMD)
(formerly the Express Vote Machine)



DS300 Ballot Scanner (formerly the DS200 scanner) –new updated machines

Emergency Compartment
(formerly the Auxiliary Compartment)

Ballot Compartment
(formerly the Ballot Box)

What's New in 2025

3. New way of Poll Watching on *Election Day* – Microshifting

- Successfully experimented during 11/2024 election – we are employing this mode on Election Day
- Microshifter Poll Watchers will visit ~5 precincts and gather information between 10am – 6pm vs serving a singular 4-hour shift in one place
 - The 5 sites are within a ~5-mile radius of one another, including some that are collocated precincts
 - Offers schedule flexibility to PW
- We will still have Priority Precincts which have 4 standard shifts: 5-9, 9-1, 1-5, and 5-9
 - On Election Day, you can choose: “traditional” PW or work in the new Microshifter mode
 - Priority Precincts: University, South Lakes, Marshall HS, Coates, and Reston #1
- All PWs, regardless of PW mode of observation, will still report their findings on-line for each site

How To Conduct Yourself

- Walk in with the assumption that you are going to observe a well-run operation; that the Chief, Assistant Chief, and the Election Officers have been well trained, and they are doing their jobs to the best of their abilities
- No Rambo behavior! Be respectful, be professional. **Be Right, Be Polite!**
- If you notice something questionable, take your concerns first to the Chief or the Assistant Chief as a question, and then if there is still a concern, call or email the RPV **HELPLINE:**

help@virginia.gop
804-600-4809



PROTECT THE
VOTE

Poll Watcher Principles

› DOS

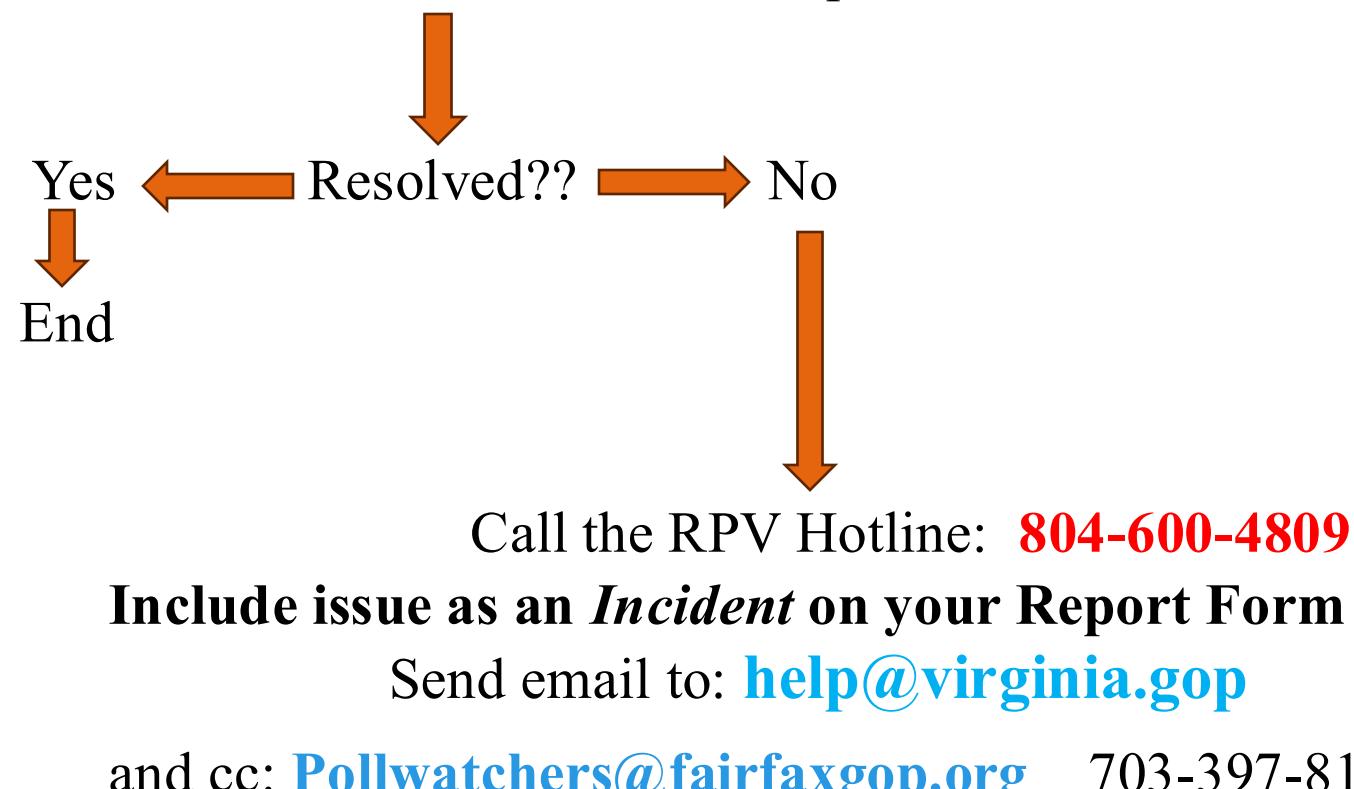
- Be respectful and courteous
- Know the process and observe
- Use the hotline and reporting form
- Know and always respect voting rights and laws protecting them

DON'TS

- Be disrespectful
- Be demanding
- Interfere or disrupt voting or the orderly conduct of the election
- Commit defamation or make unsubstantiated accusations
- Violate laws or voter rights

When/How to Escalate an Issue

If you see or hear something you believe is being handled incorrectly, first pose your concern to the Chief or Assistant Chief as a question.



Reporting

Report these numbers for each Early Voting shift and the 5 priority Election Day shifts:

1. Daily DS300 Ballot Scanner voting counts (public and protected counts)
2. Cumulative E-Pollbook check-in count
3. Red tape seal number (the red 1"x2" seal covering the the thumb drive compartment cover). This will be replaced with a blue seal if the DS300 scanner or the paper tape has been replaced.
4. Zip tie seal numbers on DS300 lid, and Ballot and Emergency Compartment doors
5. Number of Absentee Ballots collected in the precinct drop box
6. Number of Provisional Ballots – both SDRs and other types
7. Zip Tie seal number on the purple pouch on Election Day
8. Any FCOE instances of failures to follow proper procedures, or incidents reported to the Helpline

Reporting

Report this information if you are a Microshifter on Election Day:

1. Daily DS300 Ballot Scanner voting counts (public and protected counts)
2. Red tape seal number (the red 1"x2" seal covering the the thumb drive compartment cover). This will be replaced with a blue seal if the DS300 scanner or the paper tape has been replaced.
3. Any FCOE instances of failures to follow proper procedures, or incidents reported to the Helpline
4. Voter Count Worksheet updated on Election Day to monitor # of check-ins to # of ballots scanned
5. Items of note from conversations with the Chief/Assistant Chief and the Greeters