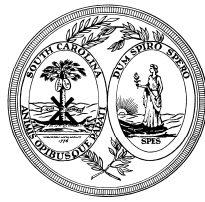


Anderson County



Registration and Elections Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All

FROM: Katy Smith, Director

DATE: June 5, 2008

RE: Election Information

It has come to our attention that some misleading information about what watchers, candidates, candidates' representatives, and observers can and cannot do at the polls on Election Day. In an effort to alleviate any confusion we are sending out this memo and attached to it copies from the Poll Manager Handbook produced by the South Carolina Election Commission regarding each of these. It is our hope that you will distribute these to your workers, volunteers, candidates, etc. in an effort to ensure that all election laws are followed by everyone at the polls.

If we work together to educate our voters, volunteers, workers, and candidates on all aspects of the election process it would go a long way to help improve and encourage voter participation. By following the laws it will cut down on the number of phone calls and complaints we have to field regarding violations such as candidates' signs in the wrong area, candidates' representatives wearing badges, watchers not providing certification, candidates inside the polling place doing more than greeting, candidates wearing a badge inside the polling place, or handing out materials, etc.

Be an encourager and not a discourager, follow the laws. If you have any questions, please contact us or the State Election Commission at (803) 734-9060.

At the conclusion of the elections if you find that any of your plastic campaign signs are damaged and cannot be used you may dispose of those at the White Street Recycling Center.

Observers

Since elections are public functions, individuals representing organizations or themselves may observe the election process. These observers may stay inside the polling place if they do not talk to voters or interfere with the election process. Because of a polling place size, observers may be limited in number. Observers, as with anyone inside the polling place, may not display any type of campaign literature including a badge or item of clothing. Observers must conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Observers who are disorderly or unruly may be removed from the polling place (*Section 7-13-140*).

Watchers

Each candidate in a primary election, or a non-partisan or announced write-in candidate in a general election, may appoint one watcher at a time for any voting

place where this candidate's name is on the ballot. However, in any general or special election, all candidates of the same political party shall be jointly represented at any one polling place by not more than 2 watchers for each 1,000 registered voters or fraction thereof registered at such polling place.

Every watcher must:

- be a qualified voter in the county where he/she is to watch.
- be certified to the managers of the voting precinct to which assigned. This certification must be in writing and signed by the candidate or by an appropriate party official as having been designated as a watcher.
- at all times wear a badge not to exceed 4 "x 4 ", specifying the name of the candidate or party he/she represents. This badge must contain letters no larger than ¼ inch in height or width and must not be a color that has florescent quality.
- conduct himself in a manner that will not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election (*Section 7-13-860*).

The managers have authority to require that the watchers station themselves in such places as the managers designate. Watchers must be placed where they can observe the entire election procedure, but managers should not permit the activity of the watchers to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election or to permit the watcher to talk with the voter. Except as allowed by law, watchers may not approach within five feet of any voting booth. Watchers must conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Watchers who are disorderly or unruly may be removed from the polling place (*Sections 7-13-140, 7-13-860, 7-13-130*).

The voter registration list is a matter of public record. Poll watchers should be allowed to look at the list, under supervision of the poll managers, as long as it does not interfere or disrupt the orderly voting process.

To be more knowledgeable about election day procedures, poll watchers may want to attend poll manager training conducted by the county election commission. Special poll watcher training may also be available.

Distributing and Displaying Campaign Literature at Polls

It is unlawful for any person, on election day, to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political posters within 200 feet of any entrance used by the voters to enter a polling place. It is the duty of poll managers to keep this prohibited area clear of political literature and displays. County and municipal law enforcement officers shall, upon the request of the poll managers, remove or cause to be removed any material distributed or displayed within 200 feet of any such entrance (*Section 7-25-180 (a)*).

Candidates

It is permissible for a candidate to be stationed outside the polling place but within the above stated 200 feet area, greet voters and solicit votes, provided there are no complaints by voters to the managers regarding this activity, or as long as in the managers judgment there is no disruption of the orderly election process. Candidates may not display or distribute campaign literature within this 200 foot area.

A candidate may wear a badge no larger than 4 "x 4 " within 200 feet of the entrance to the polling place. This label may contain the candidate's name and office sought. **The candidate may enter the polling place but this badge must be removed before entering** (*Section 7-25-180 (b)*).

A candidate may greet voters in line or out of the polling place as long as he/she is not intimidating voters or interfering with the orderly election process. The managers should use their own judgment regarding this matter.

Candidate's Representatives

It is permissible for the representative(s) of a candidate to be stationed outside the polling place but within the above stated 200 feet area, greet voters and solicit votes, provided there are no complaints by voters to the managers regarding this activity, or as long as in the managers judgment there is no disruption of the orderly election process.

Representatives of candidates may not wear any type of badge within this 200 foot area. Representatives of candidates may not display or distribute campaign literature within this 200 foot area.

The voter registration list and poll list are a matter of public record. Poll watchers, candidates and candidate's representatives should be allowed to look at the list, under supervision of the poll managers, as long as it does not interfere or disrupt the orderly voting process.