

CHALLENGERS

Challengers are appointed to observe the conduct of an election on behalf of:

1. A candidate
2. A political party
3. The proponents or opponents of a question

The County Chairperson of each political party may appoint two challengers per election district. **Candidates whose names appear on the ballot are automatically challengers. You have been provided with Candidate Challenger badges.**

A candidate for election may appoint two challengers for each election district in which he/she is to be voted for, but only two challengers shall be allowed for each election district to represent all candidates nominated in and by the same petition. Those challengers must stay at the district to which they are appointed.

Unless express permission is given by the Board of Elections, not more than one challenger appointed for a party, candidate or a public question shall be present at one time in any polling place while serving and exercising the powers of a challenger and during the hours when the polls are open for voting. (NJSA 19:7-6.1) If permission is given to one party, candidate or public question, it must be granted to the opposition as well.

A County Chairman can appoint up to 24 “at-large” challengers. The “at-large” challenger shall be issued a county-wide permit, which is to be presented to any pollworker within the county. When leaving the polling place the challenger must reclaim the permit in order to gain entry to any other polling place.

CHALLENGER CREDENTIALS

Appointment papers must indicate the challenger’s name, address, and district where they are challenging. **Challengers must present their credentials to the pollworker who will post them.** The challenger keeps the official challenger badge issued by the Board of Elections and must wear it to show that they are authorized to be in the polling place.

Challengers must be registered to vote in the county in which the election is held and no appointed challenger shall serve in any district other than that to which appointed. If a challenger is to be moved to another district, or a new challenger is to be appointed, the original credentials must be returned to the Board of Elections and new credentials will be issued.

WHAT CHALLENGERS CAN DO IN THE POLLS

- 1. Observe the opening and closing of the polls**
- 2. Challenge the right of a voter to cast a ballot**

Challengers have the right and power to challenge the right of a person to cast a ballot, and the counting or rejecting of any ballot or any part of a ballot. (NJSA 19:7-5) The primary duty of a Challenger is to observe the election, keep a record of who votes, and challenge any voter for whom they have a reasonable basis to believe is not qualified to vote.

Challengers may not challenge a voter directly. Any challenges must be done through the pollworkers.

Challenger tables are arranged by the pollworkers in a location that does not interfere with voters, but are close enough to hear the pollworker call the voter's name. **Challengers may not sit at the same table as the pollworkers or handle any voting materials (ballots, PEBs, books, forms, and voting machines).**

Challengers are not permitted to use cell phones while inside the poll. Voters are not required to go to the challenger first to check in. Challengers CAN NOT impede the voter's progress. Challengers may not electioneer nor wear buttons, pins, T-shirts, etc. showing candidate or political party support.

CHALLENGING A VOTE

A challenger can challenge a vote based on a belief that the voter is not qualified to vote due to citizenship, age or residency. No person on parole, probation or serving sentence due to a conviction for an indictable offense under any Federal or State law is eligible to vote.

A CHALLENGE **MUST** BE STARTED **AFTER** THE VOTER GIVES THEIR NAME TO THE POLLWORKER AND **BEFORE** THE VOTER ENTERS THE VOTING BOOTH. **YOU MUST NOTIFY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IF A CHALLENGE OCCURS.**

If a challenge is made, the challenger must complete a "Challenger's Affidavit" (see page 68). The pollworkers must also sign this form. The pollworker must then read aloud the information on the Form C-3, "Information for Challenged Voter" (see page 69).

The challenged voter must complete a “Challenged Voter Affidavit” and present a form of identification. The pollworkers also sign this form. After all questions are addressed, a vote must be taken by the pollworkers to determine the right of the voter. If, in the case of a tie vote, the challenge fails and the voter can vote. If the right to vote is denied, the voter may appeal the pollworkers’ decision to a Superior Court Judge in Newton. The voter must bring with him/her a copy of the Challenger’s Affidavit and the Challenged Voters Affidavit.