

# **VISITOR GUIDELINES**

## **Who Is Authorized to Be Present in the Polling Place?**

Under the Election Code, the following individuals (and ONLY the following individuals) are permitted access to the voting room at a polling place:

- A voter;
- An individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance;
- A child under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter;
- Members of the polling place staff;
- Members or representatives of the State Board of Elections or the county board of elections;
- Any accredited challenger/watcher (see below); and
- Any other individual authorized by the State Board of Elections or the county board of elections.

## **Guidelines for Media Covering Activity at a Polling Place**

**Media Contact: Marjorie Roher 240-777-8525**

- Upon entering the voting area, contact one of the Chief Judges, located at the Voter Assistance table. Representatives must be prepared to present media credentials.
- May not converse with any voter in the voting area.
- Pictures may be taken in the polling place during voting hours with consent of Chief Judge.
- May not disrupt the voting process or the work of the polling place staff.
- May not in any way compromise or endanger the secrecy of a voter's ballot.

## **Guidelines for Exit Polling**

- Pollsters are not permitted in the voting room.
- Pollsters are not permitted to ask questions of a voter until the voter has left the voting room.
- Pollsters must inform the voters that their participation in the poll is voluntary.
- Pollsters are not permitted to electioneer. Therefore, the electioneering limits set forth in Section 16-206(b)(2) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland do not apply.

## **Challengers/Watchers**

A challenger or watcher has the right to:

- Enter the polling place ½ hour before the polls open;
- Be present in the polling place whenever the polls are open;
- Be positioned near the election judges so that he/she may see & hear each person who votes;
- Remain in the polling place after the polls close, until the election judges leave;
- Maintain a list of registered voters who have voted & take the list outside the polling place; and
- Enter and leave the polling place to take out information that indicates registered voters who have cast ballots.

Challengers/watchers are expressly prohibited from:

- Ascertaining how a voter voted or intends to vote;
- Conversing in the polling place with any voter;
- Assisting any voter in voting; or
- Physically handling any election document.