

**WATCHER'S CERTIFICATE
FOR USE ON ELECTION DAY**

**COUNTY OF ONONDAGA
STATE OF NEW YORK**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT PURSUANT TO
SEC. 8-500 OF THE ELECTION LAW OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

(name of person appointed as watcher)

a duly qualified voter of the County of Onondaga,
State of New York, has hereby been
appointed to act as a **WATCHER** on behalf of

(political party/independent body)

at the _____ Election to be held on

(Date of Election)

City/Town of _____, in County of Onondaga.

Chairman, Political Committee or Candidate

Dated: _____



POLL WATCHER'S GUIDE

Onondaga County
Board of Elections
1000 Erie Blvd West
Syracuse, NY 13204

(315) 435 - VOTE

www.ongov.net/elections

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 candidates, the chair of any party or committee, or independent organizations which have candidates on the ballot and/or political committees.

ROLE OF THE POLL WATCHER

The role of the Poll Watcher is 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 Inspector, the Police Officer and/or the Board of Elections.

POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS

Watchers shall be appointed by the party committee, independent body or candidate on the ballot for the election committee.

At a Primary Election any two or more candidates may designate Poll Watchers

Each watcher must be a qualified voter in Onondaga County.

Watcher certificates must be delivered to an inspector at the election district.

No more than three watchers for any party committee, independent body, or candidate whose names appear on the ballot may be appointed to serve at the same election district.

POLL WATCHER LIMITATIONS

The Poll Watcher **may not:**

Electioneer in any manner.

Assist in the conduct of the election or interfere with the election process.

Question any voter in any manner.

Remove or handle any election materials on the inspector's table.

Accompany a voter to the booth.

Be a candidate for office in the election district in which they are to be a Poll Watcher.

POLL WATCHER RIGHTS

The Poll Watcher **may:**

Be present at the polling place at least 15 minutes before the unlocking and examination of any voting machine or ballot box at the opening of polls, until after the signing of the inspector's canvass at the close of polls. (8-500.2)

Before any voter casts his/her vote, a watcher may challenge voters whom they believe are not qualified to vote. (8-502)

Notify the Board of Inspectors that they have observed an individual soliciting votes or electioneering (distributing posters or banners, wearing or carrying buttons) within the polling place or within the 100-foot distance markers immediately outside of the polling place.

Ask inspectors to repeat a voter's name as he/she approaches the table.

Sit at a close proximity to the inspector's table but not at the inspector's table.