

## Laws Poll Workers Should Know

### Poll Worker Apportionment

MCL 168.674 (2): “The board of election commissioners shall appoint at least 1 election inspector from each major political party and shall appoint an equal number, as nearly as possible, of election inspectors in each election precinct from each major political party.”

### Campaign Distance Limit

MCL 168.744 (1): “An election inspector or any other person in a polling room, in a compartment connected to a polling room, or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which a polling place is located shall not persuade or endeavor to persuade a person to vote for or against any particular candidate or party ticket or for or against any ballot question that is being voted on at the election.”

### “Helping” Voters

MCL 168.751 When at an election an elector shall state that the elector cannot mark his or her ballot, the elector shall be assisted in the marking of his or her ballot **by 2 inspectors of election**. If an elector is so disabled **on account of blindness**, the elector may be assisted in the marking of his or her ballot by a member of his or her immediate family or by a person over 18 years of age designated by the blind person.

MCL 168.754 The inspectors upon whom shall fall the duty of assisting a voter shall render such assistance inside the voting booth by showing him how to mark his ballot in order to vote as he desires, or the inspector shall himself mark the ballot as directed by the voter, but **no ballot shall be marked by the inspector from any written or printed list or slip furnished him by the voter or any other person**. The inspector **shall not suggest to the voter how he should vote, or in any manner attempt to influence him as to the marking of his ballot, nor allow any other person so to do**: Provided, That the duties and restrictions with respect to inspectors as provided for in this section shall apply to and govern any person assisting the voter in the marking of his ballot, in accordance with the authorization in section 751 of this act.

MCL 168.757 Any inspector who shall wilfully assist any elector in any manner contrary to the provisions contained in this section, shall, upon conviction, **be guilty of a felony**.

## **Poll Challengers**

“Challengers and poll watchers have their rights and responsibilities established under law. Challengers and poll watchers are required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth **unless they cannot medically tolerate a face covering.**

Challengers and poll watchers who cannot medically tolerate a face covering should wear a face shield **if possible.**

Election workers may require that challengers and poll watchers observe proper social distancing, meaning that challengers and poll watchers should maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and election workers, as much **as possible.**

**However, challengers may stand in closer proximity to election workers to have a challenge heard, observe the poll book, or perform other tasks established under law provided that these close personal interactions are as brief as reasonably possible.**

Once a challenge, observation, or other permitted task is complete, challengers and poll watchers should resume remaining six (6) feet away from voters and poll workers.” -

*Final ordered directive, Carra v. Benson (2020)*

<https://rescuemichigan.com/research/FinalOrder.pdf>

## **Talking to Police You Did Not Summon**

Only say this, repeatedly if necessary:

“You will have my full cooperation within 24 hours. I want to speak with my attorney. I will NOT answer any questions. I will NOT make a statement at this time. You MAY NOT search my home, vehicle, or property. Am I free to leave? I want to leave NOW.”

Be polite and respectful to the police. NEVER physically resist the police.

If an officer gives you what you interpret to be an unlawful command, politely ask: “Is this a request, or a command?” If it is a command, obey it.

Live to litigate another day. In a hostile police encounter, ignore everything else and focus on leaving peaceably.