

COUNTY OF LEHIGH
Office of the Election Board

Timothy A. Benyo
Chief Clerk
timothybenyo@lehighcounty.org



Lehigh County Government Center
Office of Voter Registration & Elections
17 South Seventh Street
Allentown, PA 18101-2401
Telephone (610) 782-3194
Fax (610) 770-3845

September 26, 2016

TO: All Parties & Candidates involved in 2016 General Election
FROM: Chief Clerk, Lehigh County Election Board
SUBJECT: Watchers Certificate Policy Notice

In accordance with 25 P.S. § 2687, Pennsylvania Statutes and Consolidated Statutes Annotated:

1. All Watchers must be registered voters in Lehigh County.
2. Not more than one Watcher for each Candidate or Party is permitted in the polling place during the hours of the election.
3. Watchers are permitted to enter the polling place after the polls are closed.
4. Watchers must remain at least six (6) feet from the election officers' table and the voting units. This is the "enclosed space".
5. Watchers are in the polling place to watch, they are NOT to disturb voters or election officers, nor to disrupt the voting process other than provisions described in this act.
6. Watchers may not assist the election officers with any of their duties. They may not approach the table or handle any forms, paperwork, supplies or equipment.
7. Watchers must be ready to show their certificates to an election official. If a Watcher does not have a certificate, he/she may not be inside the polling place. Certificates are issued by the Lehigh County Elections & Voter Registration Office only. Poll Workers will check identification and authenticity. Violations will result in removal and risk of legal consequences, which may include criminal sanctions and permanent denial of future poll watcher certificates.
8. Only when there are no voters present in the polling place, may a Certified Poll Watcher, upon request, inspect the Numbered List of Voters Books. A precinct official must supervise this procedure. Access to Sign-In slips will be available.
9. Cell phone use is prohibited inside the polling location. Watchers must leave the precinct to use the phone.
10. Watchers may use electronic equipment to manage their lists. Access to a power outlet and / or wifi is not guaranteed nor should be expected. All sound should be muted at all times. Please prepare accordingly.
11. The use of any recording device inside the precinct is strictly prohibited. Violators will be removed immediately and risk legal consequences, which may include criminal sanctions and permanent denial of future poll watcher certificates.

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GENERAL ELECTION WATCHER CERTIFICATES INCLUDE:

- Each Political Party is entitled to have three (3) Watchers for each precinct.
- Each Candidate is entitled to have two (2) Watchers for each precinct in which said candidate is running for office.
- Two Poll Watchers per Candidate/Party may be present during opening and closing of polls.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A POLL WATCHER CERTIFICATE:

Applications may be submitted to Lehigh County Elections & Voter Registration in person, by mail or by email:

Address: Lehigh County Elections & Voter Registration
Government Center
17 South 7th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Email: timothybenyo@lehighcounty.org

Please supply the following information for each certificate requested:

Watcher Name:

Watcher Address:

Municipality (Precinct) of Watcher:

Watcher Party:

Who Watching for (Candidate or Party):

* When submitting a list of certificates needed, please submit information on an excel spreadsheet.

** Requests must be made to Lehigh County Elections & Voter Registration by 4pm on the Tuesday prior to an Election/Primary will guarantee creation for Election Day. Requests after will be produced as time permits.