

Libertarian Party of Indiana

Quick Guide

Ten Commandments for working the polls on Election Day:

- 1. Pay attention to where you stand. A candidate, party official without credentials, or campaign volunteer is not permitted inside the polling place or chute. You are able to go in and vote at your precinct, but are not allowed to electioneer while voting. The precinct's inspector or judge will post a sign stating where electioneering is permitted, and where it is not. A person that is found electioneering within the polls or chute will be charged with a Class A misdemeanor. If another campaign is violating this law, then please call your campaign, and ask them to contact the County Election Board. If voters walk out, and complain of irregularities, ask them to contact that county's election board. It is always best for the county election board to handle questionable issues. It is better to stay focused on persuading voters, and let the Inspector handle those issues.
- 2. Dress warmly and well. Poll workers should wear as much Candidate or Libertarian gear as possible. If the campaign you are working for does not have shirts for you, please dress nicely. A volunteer represents the candidate. Inappropriate dress WILL lose votes for a candidate. A suit and tie is not necessary, but comfortable, business casual is best. Your polling spot may be inside, or outside. Please check with the campaign, and plan accordingly.
- 3. Always smile. A friendly demeanor welcomes the message you are speaking. It also diffuses any tension between members of other parties and yourself. You catch more flies with honey.
- 4. It is ok to bring a chair, but please stand when greeting a voter. If you are at the polls for the entire 12 hours, sitting is encouraged. Stay energized. It is ok to bring a book or an iPod to fill in the dead spots, but please remember that your goals is to impress every single voter that walks into cast a ballot for your candidate.
- 5. If a restroom is within a restricted area, please discuss the rules with the inspector of that precinct. They will generally allow you to the restroom, but may have certain conditions. When going to the restroom, please secure personal items, and all campaign materials.
- 6. Please contact your campaign if you run out of materials to hand out.
- 7. Be enthusiastic, but not pushy. You will find that most are receptive to your message, or to accept any information you may be handing out. There will be some people who are more passionate than others, or aren't as nice as you'd like. If someone says "no thanks" or is rude, please just say thank you, and focus on the next voter. The way you react could lose votes, or have you removed from the premises.
- 8. Lunch! Feel free to pack a lunch or a few snacks. It can be a long day, and staying energized is important. If you have to leave the polls to get food, please be quick. The heaviest voting times are between 7 AM 9 AM, 11 AM 1 PM, and 4 PM 6 PM. Please refrain from eating during these times.
- 9. Know your candidates location on the ballot. For example, Bob Barr is 1C on the ballot. Andy Horning is 2C on the ballot. Ask you campaign what their ballot number is, and remind voters of that number as they go in. A campaign should provide a sample ballot that you can show to voters as they enter the polls. Be sure that it is marked as a sample ballot to prevent problems.
- 10. Keep conversations brief. Voters will usually chat with campaign volunteers, and it can be one of the most enjoyable parts of the experience. Don't be afraid to end a conversation if it is interfering with the job at hand: persuading voters.