

CAMPAIGNING AT THE POLLS/EXIT POLLSTERS

Campaigning at the Polls

Michigan law prohibits a person from posting, displaying, or distributing inside a polling place or any hallway used by voters to enter or exit a polling place, or within 100 feet of an entrance to a building in which a polling place is located, “any material that directly or indirectly makes reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question.” Note, while this restriction applies to candidates and ballot proposals appearing on the ballot at this election, it does not apply to official election materials that are required by law to be posted, displayed, or distributed in a polling place on Election Day.

The following activities are prohibited:

- Displaying “pro and con” information or “vote for/against” materials regarding the candidates or proposals that appear on the ballot. This does not include school gear that does not say “vote for/against.”
- Approaching voters to verbally encourage them to vote for or against any person or question on the ballot.
- Distributing any type of campaign literature or write-in stickers.
- Displaying campaign signs, posters, or bumper stickers.
- Collecting petition signatures.
- Requesting donations, selling tickets or engaging in similar activities.

Election inspectors must direct voters entering the polls to remove campaign buttons or cover up clothing that refers to a candidate, campaign slogan, or political party or interest group. Instruct voters to conceal campaign literature or other campaign materials brought into the polling room. A voter may discreetly refer to their own personal notes, campaign literature or “slate cards” when voting, but the materials must not be left behind in the voting station. Election inspectors must periodically check each voting station for campaign literature or materials left by voters and discard any that is found.

A voter may park a vehicle displaying campaign signs or bumper stickers within 100 feet of the polling place during the time he or she is voting. In any other circumstance, vehicles with campaign signs or bumper stickers must be parked at least 100 feet from any entrance to the building in which the polling place is located.

Candidates appearing on the ballot cannot remain in the polling place after voting and are subject to the 100-foot restriction.