

# POLL WATCHERS VS. CHALLENGERS

## Poll watchers

- Any person interested in observing
- Does not have to be registered to vote
- Cannot challenge
- May not be behind pollworker tables
- Must be in “public area”
- May view pollbook at chairperson’s discretion

## Challengers

- Appointed by political parties
- Two allowed per party, only one challenger per party has authority to challenge – must declare an authority change
- May challenge a voter’s right to vote
- May challenge inspectors if proper procedure is not followed
- Must carry credentials issued by party
- May be expelled for being disorderly
- May be behind the pollworker tables
- Must be registered to vote in Michigan
- May view pollbook

## ELECTION CHALLENGERS AND POLL WATCHERS SUMMARY OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES:

|  | <b>Challengers</b> | <b>Poll Watchers</b>            |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Must carry credentials issued by appointing authority.         | Yes                | No                              |
| Must be registered to vote in Michigan.                        | Yes                | No                              |
| Has the right to challenge a person's eligibility to vote.     | Yes                | No                              |
| Has the right to challenge the actions of election inspectors. | Yes                | No                              |
| May stand or sit behind processing table.                      | Yes                | No. Must remain in public area. |

|   | <b>Challengers</b>      | <b>Poll Watchers</b>   |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times while inside   | Yes                     | Yes  |
| Has the right to look at the (e)Pollbook and other election materials.  | Yes                     | Yes but only as permitted by precinct board when voting process not delayed. |
| May handle the (e)Pollbook and other election materials.  | No                      | No   |
| May use a video camera or recording device, or the camera or recording features of a smart phone or table in polling place or clerk's office. | No                      | No   |
| May use a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or other electronic device in polling place or clerk's office.   | Yes. If not disruptive. | Yes. If not disruptive.  |
| May wear clothing, button, arm band, vest, etc. that identifies organization he or she represents.  | No                      | No   |
| May place tables in the polls   | No                      | No   |
| Has the right to approach and question voters.  | No                      | No   |
| Can offer assistance to voters.   | No                      | No   |
| May remain in the polling place until the election inspectors complete their work.  | Yes                     | Yes  |
| May obtain the vote results generated in the precinct after the polls close.  | Yes                     | Yes  |