

## TOWN OF WESTFORD CANDIDATE AND POLL WATCHER POLICY

Title 17 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated in sections 2508 and 2565 give the Presiding Officer the right to impose reasonable rules for the preservation of order at the polling place and outside the polling place. "In no event shall such representatives be allowed to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, including the voters checking in at the Entrance Checklist table." Poll watchers shall be outside the guardrail at all times.

The Presiding Officer of the Town of Westford will impose the following rules:

1. No campaigning, electioneering or discussion of the election is to take place inside the town office or any location where an election is being held (the polling place). When explaining your role to a voter, do not identify your candidate(s) or your party.
2. No campaign materials including signs, buttons, leaflets, or any other election materials are permitted inside the polling place or on the property of the polling place, except as noted in item #6.
3. Poll watchers will wear badges identifying themselves as poll watchers. These should be large enough to be easily read by voters entering the polling place. The poll watchers will supply their own badges.
4. No one may impede or block the entrance to and from the polling place.
5. Candidates and/or campaign workers are to stay on the sidewalk before the triangular area and cannot impede voters from entering or exiting the polling location. School will be in session therefore please be sensitive to school bus drop off (7:45 – 8:00 a.m.) and pick up (2:45 – 3:00 p.m.) times. Do not block the sidewalk while students are present.
6. Candidate signs in or on the ground are permitted on the day of the election at the end of the driveway near the road only. A person may hold a sign if they are on the sidewalk. All signs must be removed when the polls close.
7. Care should be taken to allow easy access by the public to parking places. Be careful of traffic entering and exiting the parking area. Candidates and/or campaign workers may park their cars in the gravel parking lot.
8. 17 V.S.A. §2572 states that in towns of 500 or more, the town is not required to allow viewing of the checklist; Westford will not allow poll watchers to view the checklist.
9. Poll watchers are permitted inside the polling place and must remain in the designated observation area (behind the control barriers). They must not interrupt the election officials or

the election process. Talking to voters is prohibited. No cell phones, pagers, cameras, laptops or other electronic devices are permitted.

10. Poll watchers shall not ask the Entrance Checklist officials to repeat the name of any voter who has checked in. If poll watchers are having difficulty hearing names, the poll watchers must discuss the issue with the Presiding Officer.
11. Any questions must be directed to the Presiding Officer.
12. Poll watching rules apply during the vote counting process.
13. Each poll watcher shall sign the "Poll Watcher Sign-in Sheet" to indicate that you have read and agree to the terms stated above.
14. Failure to comply with the terms stated above will result in the Presiding Officer directing you to leave the polling place.

References:

Title 17 VSA    Section 2505 Guardrail and/or tape marking on the floor  
                    Section 2508 Campaigning during polling hours, voter access  
                    Section 2572 Viewing of the checklist  
                    Section 2581 Closing polls