



CHATHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2020 General Election Early Voting Poll Greeter Guidelines

2020 General Election Poll Greeting: Be prepared! YOU will make a huge difference in how people vote. Please review these recommendations to make your volunteer time both comfortable and effective.

Poll Greeter Responsibilities

- 1) Encourage people to take the Blue Ballot on their way in;
- 2) Ask people to vote in every race on the entire ballot; recommend that they begin at the bottom of the ballot;
- 3) Script: Say something like: "Thank you for voting today. Would you like the Blue Ballot? Do you need information about the candidates or the judges? Remember to turn over the ballot and vote in every race!"
- 4) Project a positive, enthusiastic attitude;
- 5) Direct voters to any Board of Elections/voter protections personnel; and
- 6) Thank people for voting. The job seems simple and extremely repetitive, but executing all of these tasks at the same time can be harder than it seems. Make each greeting genuine, enthusiastic, and effective.

What to Wear

- Comfortable layers of clothing; the temperature will change throughout the day
- Comfortable shoes because you may be standing for long periods of time
- General "Democrat" gear – anything to identify yourself as a DEMOCRAT
- Our CCDP Election Volunteer badge (Return it at the end of your shift.)

What to Bring

- Bottles of water and snacks/energy bars
- An umbrella or raincoat, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- A book, digital reader, etc. for when there is no voter traffic (Avoid wearing earbuds or headphones.)
- A cell phone with a freshly charged battery
- YOUR SMILE!!! 😊

What to Expect

- Familiarize yourself with what's in the bin of supplies at the CCDP tent.
- You will likely encounter poll greeters for the "other" side, as well as greeters for particular candidates. Be friendly - introduce yourself as soon as you show up.
- Restroom facilities: It's entirely up to the site's Chief Judge whether or not poll greeters can use the facilities. You'll need to double-check when you arrive, and you will need to REMOVE or COVER all campaign-specific clothing items when you go inside to use the facilities.

When to Call Your Site Coordinator

- Contact your polling site coordinator if your relief poll greeter is late or can't make the shift.
- If you need more supplies such as safety equipment or Blue Ballots.

Notes

- Because of COVID, we aren't recycling Blue Ballots or other handouts this year.
- Keep your chair and personal items nearby so you can easily sit down when time permits, but always be ready to get in position to greet new voters.
- You may leave with more energy than when you started because you made a huge difference!

Some Rules

- ALL greeters, signs, and literature must remain a specified distance from the entrance to the polling place. THIS WILL BE MARKED WITH A LINE ON THE GROUND. There will be Board of Election signs showing the buffer zone.
- Never block the main pathway and stay outside the buffer zone.
- The Chief Judge has the final say on everything; do **not** argue if you are asked to move.

Some Suggestions

- Be careful about discussing the issues/candidates with people who want to talk, even with friendly voters. If there are candidate greeters, direct voters to them.
- People appreciate enthusiasm and energy, but **NO ONE appreciates an overly aggressive poll greeter**. Never wave materials in voters' faces or chase them down to get their attention. Never respond impolitely to voters who decline materials. Be respectful of voters who just want to get in and get out by paying attention to body language, facial expressions, and eye contact (or lack thereof) as they approach the polling site.
- Do not run up to people or up to cars in the parking lot. Give voters room to walk past their car's bumper before speaking with them.
- Do not engage voters in the curbside voting area even if it is not in the buffer zone. Consider their car their voting booth; we may not electioneer in that area. BOE staff will be coming out to assist these voters.

Dealing with Difficult Situations

- Once in a while, an election official, a hostile voter, or someone from another party may question your presence. While this is rare, stay calm and be prepared.
- Keep smiling, even in the face of hostile people. Remember, you are making a positive difference, and many people are grateful that you are there. Your calm and polite response to a hostile voter creates a positive impression of **both you and the party**. DO NOT RESPOND to attempts by people to engage you in debate – this distracts you from greeting other voters.
- If you witness any voter intimidation or if someone says they were unable to vote, please call the **Voter Protection Hotline 1-833-868-3462**. Also, please inform the Precinct Chief Judge and call us to let us know what is happening.
- If for any reason you feel threatened by anyone or feel that a situation has become dangerous, CALL 911. We do not expect this to happen but want you to know that you always have that protection. Also call the CCDP office at 919-913-7215 when you can.

Thank YOU for volunteering your time for such an important task. Poll workers are the last people voters see before they walk into the polling place. Help voters feel empowered to vote, encourage them to connect with CCDP, and thank them as they leave!