

CAMPAIGN TIPS

Florida Statute 102.031(4) limits activities at polling places during early voting and on Election Day. Only designated poll watchers are allowed inside the polling place while voting is taking place.

Outside of the polling place the law creates a 150 ft. zone from the entrance or the drop box, where soliciting voters is prohibited. This area is referred to as the “no solicitation zone.”

Definition of Solicitation – F.S. 102.031(4)9b) – Solicitation shall include, but not be limited to, seeking or attempting to seek any vote, fact, opinion, or contribution; distributing or attempting to distribute any political or campaign material, leaflet, or handout; conducting a poll except as specified below in this paragraph; seeking or attempting to seek a signature on any petition; selling or attempting to sell any item; and engaging in any activity with the intent to influence or effect of influencing a voter.

Giving items such as bottled water, candy or other items to voters is strictly prohibited within the 150 ft. no solicitation (no political activity) area.

Exit Polling – F.S. 102.031 and United States District Court (Case No. 06-22463-CIV-HUCK/SIMONTON)

Persons conducting exit polling must still comply with the political activities restrictions and other matters related to political issues and campaigns outlined in F.S. 102.031(4).

Definition of Exit Polling – Exit polling is defined in Judge Paul Huck’s order as, “the collection of data from a random sample of voters after they leave the polling place in a scientifically pre-determined pattern and asking if they would be willing to fill out a brief, anonymous questionnaire.” Exit polling can take place inside the 150-foot zone and **only** after voters leave the polling place.

Poll Deputy:

- Appointed by the Supervisor of Elections to maintain order and ensure that the no solicitation zone is adhered to.
- Determines the boundaries of the no solicitation zone by placing a marker or markers identifying the restricted area.
- Answers questions regarding the no solicitation zone.
- Individuals who persist in impeding the access of voters and engaging in prohibited conduct will be asked to leave, even if they are beyond the no solicitation zone.

The poll deputy may request the assistance of the Sheriff’s Office, if necessary, to maintain order.

Tips for Campaigning outside the 150’ No Solicitation Zone:

- Campaigners may have signs which must be held or in close proximity (approximately 1 ft.) to the individual on public property. All signs must be always attended to if visible. It is unlawful and a class A offense for any person to erect, place or install a political sign or advertisement on public property.
- Allow unimpeded access for all voters.
- Be respectful of voters and the polling place property.

Prohibited Practices:

Campaigning:

- It is unlawful and a Class D offense for a person to make or solicit or knowingly accept any campaign contribution in a building owned by the City or an independent agency. This prohibition does not apply when a building owned by the City or an independent agency, or any portion thereof, is rented for the specific purpose of holding a campaign fundraiser. (Sec. 350.303 Jacksonville Ordinance Code)
- It is unlawful and a class A offense for any person to engage in political campaigning in a public building in locations where public employees are working. This prohibition does not apply to rooms rented in public buildings for the purpose of political campaigning; nor does it apply to the city's senior citizen and community centers. (Sec. 350.305 Jacksonville Ordinance Code)

Vehicles:

- Box trucks, motor homes or trailers used to carry signs are not allowed to be parked at polling places. This includes early voting sites and the Supervisor of Elections office downtown while early voting is taking place.
- Other vehicles with political signs or decorations are not allowed to park within the no solicitation zone unless they are driven by a voter who is parking to vote and leaving immediately after voting.
- Political signs on permitted vehicles outside of the no solicitation zone must be affixed to or inside the vehicle. For example, bumper stickers, magnetic signs, paint, or vehicle wraps would be acceptable while leaning a yard sign against or on a vehicle would not be acceptable.

Conduct:

Most complaints the Elections Office receives are from voters upset with the tactics of campaign volunteers electioneering at polling places. The conduct of campaign workers may reflect on your campaign in either a positive or negative manner. If you choose to have campaign workers outside of a polling place, we strongly recommend that courtesy toward the voters be stressed in their training. Voters may react negatively to aggressive electioneering.

We have many churches that want to be a part of the election process and offer a part of their facilities for voting. However, they do not appreciate the political signs that litter their private property. We ask that each candidate instruct their campaign workers to refrain from placing political signs on government property and any private property without the permission of the owner.

*Each polling place may have unique aspects that are not directly expressed in this section. All solicitation activities at polling places are subject to review for compliance of the law by the Supervisor of Elections office.