



**Poll Watching in Alabama:**  
**A Public Advisory**  
*October 10, 2020*

The League of Women Voters of Alabama wants citizens to be aware of the laws and regulations regarding poll watchers. Poll watchers are present to help protect the integrity of the voting process, but not just anyone is allowed to observe at the polls. Did you know that in Alabama poll watchers must be nominated by a political party and that there are limits on how many may be present at individual polling places? The following statement issued by Secretary of State John Merrill on Oct. 9, 2020, explains further.

“State law permits residents of Alabama to serve as poll watchers and requires they be nominated by a party with a candidate on the ballot. The name of each poll watcher shall be submitted in writing by the county executive committee or nominees for office to the polling place inspector, noting their appointment.

“Anyone who is interested in becoming a poll watcher for the Democratic Party should call (334) 262-2221. Anyone who is interested in becoming a poll watcher for the Republican Party should call (205) 212-5900. Anyone who is interested in becoming a poll watcher for the Libertarian Party should call (205) 328-8683. Anyone in DeKalb County who is interested in becoming a poll watcher for Independent candidate Steve Whitmire should call (256) 899-2500.

“In addition, poll watchers are encouraged to bring copies of the appointment letter with them to the polling place to avoid confusion or concern.

“Per state law, poll watchers shall have the right to:

1. Observe the conduct of the election.
2. Monitor the preliminaries of opening the polls.
3. Remain at the polling place throughout the election until the results of the election have been posted and the voting machines are sealed, as provided by law.
4. Observe the ballots as they are counted.
5. Observe absentee ballots and affidavits when they are called during the count.
6. See all oaths administered and signed, the record of assisted voters, the list of qualified voters, the poll lists, and any and all records made in connection with the election.

“Further, poll watchers may not disturb voters, attempt to influence voters, campaign, or display or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside any polling place.

“Any voter who observes voter interference, intimidation, or manipulation in his or her polling location should report the incident at [StopVoterFraudNow.com](http://StopVoterFraudNow.com) or call (334) 242-7210 if the problem persists.”