

Guideline for Watchers

Information provided by the Montgomery County Board of Elections and re-typed by MCDC.

Due to the overwhelming reaction to the subject of watchers during pollworker classes and other inquiries, we are taking this opportunity to provide some information about the roll of watchers at the polling place and how they are appointed.

Who is allowed to appoint watchers?

- Each candidate is allowed two watchers in every district where the candidate's name appears on the ballot.
- All political parties and political bodies that have nominated candidates are entitled to three watchers; Montgomery County usually prepares one certificate for each Committeeperson (two per district) and one extra is available.

Who is qualified to be a watcher?

- Watchers must be qualified registered electors in Montgomery County.
- Watchers must be able to produce their certificate upon request.

How many watchers can be in the polling place?

- Only one watcher for each candidate or for each party can be in the polling place at any one time during voting hours.

What does a watcher do?

First of all, the very name of this function pretty much says it all; **watchers are to watch.** They are not allowed to electioneer which means no signs, buttons or open discussions about the election process while in the building. If someone wishes to electioneer, he or she must be at least 10 feet from the building. Otherwise, watchers are to be placed at least 10 feet from the enclosed area and remain silent while in the polling place.

At the close of the polls on Election Day, candidates may enter the polling place but must remain outside the enclosed area along with the watchers and constable. We suggest that the Judge of Election place them at a table (they must be at least 10 feet from the enclosed area where the board is seated) and give the group a tape from each voting machine. These tapes list all the machine results and the write-ins. The tapes can be posted at the polling place later. **Under no circumstance should the watchers, candidates or constable be at the same table with the judge, inspectors and clerk.**

If there are any questions about watchers, please call the Board of Elections: (610) 278-3275.