

QUICK FACTS

- Appointments must be made in writing on a form provided by the secretary of state.
- A candidate or precinct committee person acting as an authorized poll agent must carry identification supplied by the county election officer.
- Poll agents may observe the voting process at the polling place where they are appointed.
- Poll agents may not touch or handle a ballot.

ELECTION DATES

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1
Deadline to change party affiliation before primary

TUESDAY, JULY 12
Deadline to register to vote in primary

FRIDAY, JULY 29
Deadline to apply for an advance ballot to be mailed

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2
Primary Election

IMPORTANT DATES FOR GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
Deadline to register to vote

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Deadline to apply for an advance ballot to be mailed

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
General Election

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kansas Secretary of State
Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 SW 10th Avenue | Topeka, KS 66612-1594
800-262-VOTE (8683) or 785-296-4561
Fax: 785-291-3051
www.sos.ks.gov | www.voteks.org
election@sos.ks.gov

County information may be found at
www.sos.ks.gov/elections/elections_registration_ceo.asp

Legal Sources: K.S.A. 25-2908, 25-1122, 25-2309. Rev. 2/4/16 tc

A GUIDE TO POLL AGENT RULES



WWW.VOTEKS.ORG
800-262-VOTE (8683)

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POLL AGENT RULES

Elections are conducted as openly and with as much public access as possible, still recognizing the need for control to preserve the secrecy of individuals' ballots.

At most points in the electoral process, interested individuals and groups may observe the proceedings at the precinct polling sites, at the county election office, or at the county or state canvass.

The principal means recognized in state law for public observation of electoral proceedings is the authorized poll agent. Poll agents are commonly referred to as poll watchers.

WHO ARE POLL AGENTS?

There are two ways to be designated a poll agent.

1. Each of the following is automatically a poll agent:
 - a. State or county party chair
 - b. Chair of a committee formed to support or oppose a question-submitted election.
 - c. Candidate
 - d. Precinct committeeman or committeewoman
 - e. A write-in candidate for statewide

office who has filed an affidavit of write-in candidacy with the secretary of state

2. A person may be appointed to be a poll agent by one of the persons listed above, but each person who is authorized to appoint poll agents may appoint only one per polling place.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS:

Appointments must be made in writing on a form provided by the secretary of state.

1. **Form PA** is produced by the secretary of state's office for this purpose.
2. The completed appointment form must be filed with the county election office.
3. Forms may be filed up to and on election day.

WHAT POLL AGENTS MUST DO:

1. Carry the appointment form and produce it upon request by an election officer.
2. If a candidate or precinct committee person acting as an authorized poll agent, carry identification supplied by the county election officer.
3. Act in accordance with policies adopted by the county election officer and the supervising judge at the polling place.
4. Comply with state laws and regulations and local rules applicable to poll agents.
5. Wear a badge identifying them as an observer. Badges must contain the word "observer" in 32-point type or larger.

County election officers are encouraged to supply badges to the supervising judge at each polling place to be issued to poll agents on election day.

6. If acting as an appointed poll agent, be a registered Kansas voter or a member of a candidate's family.

WHAT POLL AGENTS MAY DO:

1. Observe the voting process at the polling place where appointed.
2. Observe the canvass.
3. Request to be shown a ballot at the original canvass on election day.
4. If acting as an appointed poll agent, be as young as 14 years of age.

WHAT POLL AGENTS MAY NOT DO:

1. Approach within three feet of a voting booth or a table used by an election board.
2. Touch or handle a ballot.
3. Participate in the administration of ballots or ballot counting.
4. Hinder or obstruct any voter when entering or exiting a polling place or while voting.
5. Hinder or obstruct an election board in the performance of its duties.