

## **Ravalli County Guidance for Poll Watchers and Election Observers**

- **Please check-in with an election official at the polls, counting center or election office.**
- Please identify yourself when you arrive and wear a tag that identifies you as a poll watcher or observer. The chief judge will provide you with a tag.
- Please refer all discussions/questions regarding application/interpretation of election procedures/laws to the chief election judge. We ask that you do this **BEFORE** discussing it with voters.
- **Use of cell phones and tablets are allowed in the polling place; however, we do ask that voters, poll watchers, observers and media be respectful of the voting process. We want to be accommodating but we may need to step in if we feel the use of these devices are interfering with a voter's experience or privacy. We ask that if a poll watcher is using a tablet to monitor their voter list in the area where voting is taking place that they cover the camera lens. This will help reassure voters they are not be filmed while voting. Thank you.**
- Poll watchers/observers are not allowed to wear or have any campaign materials within the polling place. Electioneering is not allowed within 100 feet of any entrance to a polling place.
- Poll watchers/observers are not allowed to distribute alcohol, tobacco, food, drink, or anything of value to a voter within 100 feet of a polling place.
- Poll watchers/observers are not allowed to communicate with voters regarding voting for or against any candidate or issue on the ballot unless they are at least 100 feet from any entrance to the polling place.
- One poll watcher from each political party is allowed to be stationed close to the poll lists in a location that does not interfere with the election procedures. The poll watcher is not allowed to sit at the official worktable or view confidential voter information on any equipment or paper document.
- Poll watchers/observers are not allowed to interfere with the conduct of the election or assist in any way with official election process operations at a polling place, election office or tabulation center.
- At the time when each elector signs his name, the register judge shall pronounce the name loud enough to be heard by the poll watcher. A poll watcher who does not understand the pronunciation has the right to request that the judge repeat the name.
- Poll watchers/observers may not physically handle any voting materials or equipment without the express permission of the election administrator or chief polling place election official.
- Poll watchers/observers may challenge any elector, using the prescribed form properly completed.

If you have any questions, please call Regina Plettenberg, Election Administrator, at 375-6550.