

Security at the Polling Places

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Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Alabama Election Conference 2019
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Security at the Polling Places

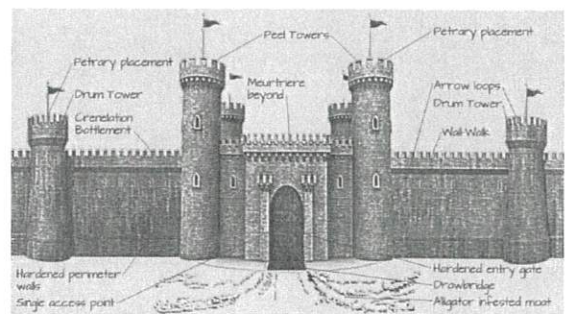
2019 ELECTIONS CONFERENCE



Physical Security

Code of Alabama, 17-9-1, directs the Sheriff to maintain a presence at each polling location within the County to preserve order and to allow every elector to vote without interference or interruption.

This is accomplished by patrolling the polling locations throughout the day. However, it is challenging for Deputies to be everywhere at once so we often rely on others to help by being our eyes and ears.

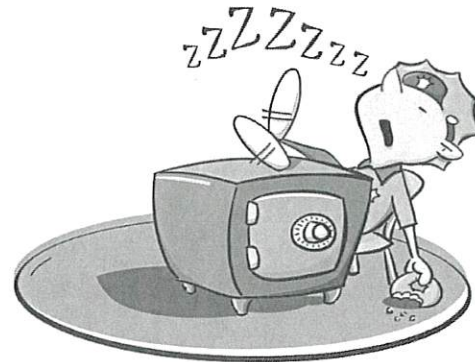


The **Chief Inspector** is often our front line of defense to address minor issues. They should alert Deputies when issues are more serious or when minor issues cannot be resolved.*

Support or maintenance staff who frequently visit precincts for maintenance issues, delivering supplies or any other reasons can be diligent to look for security issues. "See Something, Say Something"

Poll Watchers can also be a source to alert us of security issues.*

*Word of caution. These sources can be overenthusiastic at times. Security concerns and appropriate responses should be addressed in training to get everyone on the same page.



What to watch for...

Two biggest issues are often

- 30 Foot Campaigning Violations
- Overstepping Poll Watchers

Other issues can include

- Poll Worker Irregularities
 - How are they issuing ballots?
 - Are they checking ID's?
 - Are they talking politics?
- Ballot Security Issues
 - Are they openly accessible or secure behind the registration table?
- Provisional Ballots
 - How are voters being directed towards this option?



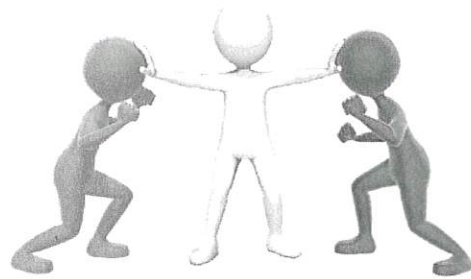
When issues arise...

The majority of Election Day security issues can be resolved by educating the parties involved.

Be prepared for complaints and approach them with consistency.

Don't hesitate to contact the Probate Judge for guidance.

Expect the unexpected on Election Day. You may face the routine issues such as campaign signs too close to the Precinct or more serious issues such as losing power due to a weather event.



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Security after the polls close

- Be prepared to address long lines at the Voting Precincts. Turnout has been trending up in recent years.
- Continue your security measures at the Return Locations and Materials Storage.
 - Consider your staging area as a secure area and restrict access. The return location is not a Voting Precinct and Poll Watchers are not allowed.
 - Consider having a viewing area close to the return location where onlookers can see what is going on.
 - You will be going through election materials to make sure you have everything. Do so openly to avoid suspicion and be prepared to explain to onlookers what you are doing.
 - Only allow Elections Officials and Deputies in the storage area
 - Offer a monitoring area for the media and public to view results to avoid unnecessary questions that might interrupt the process.





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