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Monroe County Board of Elections

Media Poll Site Access Policy

The following policy applies to all professional and citizen press activity in or near poll sites operated by the Monroe County Board of Elections. Members of the press shall abide by this policy at all times. Failure to do so may result in denial or revocation of access privileges. The Monroe County Board of Elections does not have to permit press activities inside any polling site and must prioritize the privacy of voters.

Please review and familiarize yourself with the following policy before requesting to film at a polling site. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Monroe County Board of Elections.

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MEDIA ACCESS TO POLLING SITES

1. Poll workers are authorized by law to maintain order at poll sites. Members of the press must obey poll workers' instructions and comply with poll workers' requests immediately.
2. Press are not permitted to enter any poll site without prior written permission from the Board of Elections main office. Poll workers have been instructed to deny access to poll sites to anyone other than law-ful voters and duly authorized press.
3. Press may not under any circumstances interrupt, interfere with or obstruct voters who are inside a poll site, in line at a poll site, or on their way to a poll site.
4. Press may not under any circumstances interrupt, interfere with, or obstruct poll workers.
5. Press may not take photographs or video of any marked ballot, or of a ballot while a voter is in the act of marking it.
6. Press may request and conduct interviews of voters so long as any such activity is conducted at least 100 feet from any poll site entrance* and does not inhibit access to the poll site, to footpaths around the poll site, or vehicular traffic. **Note that this includes all entrances, not just the "front" entrance.*

Electioneering: Election Law § 17-130(4) has been defined by the court to mean conduct that is meant to "convince voters to cast ballots for or against particular candidates, parties or issues."