

Election Day Security

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Jefferson County

Sheriff's Office

Alabama Election Conference 2019

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Election Day Security

2019 ELECTIONS CONFERENCE



The Alabama Code directs the Sheriff of each County to maintain a presence at each voting location within their County and to preserve order at the polls (17-9-1).

However, Election Day Security doesn't start when the precincts open for business. There is plenty that can be done leading up to Election Day.

Emergency Plan of Action

- Emergency Contact Numbers
 - Direct contact with Utility Companies
 - EMA
 - National Weather Service
 - Secretary of State's Office
 - Local Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Roads and Transportation Contact
- Surplus Supply of Ballots
- Generators
- Portable Lighting



Poll Worker's Schools

One great opportunity for security preparation is the Poll Worker's Schools.

- Gets everyone on the same page
- Poll Watchers abilities and limitations
- 30 Foot Rule
- Ballot Security
- Provisional Ballot Requirements



Election Day Command

- Election Command Center
 - Central location where maintenance, security and administrative representatives can be reach by a single phone number
- Probate Judge
 - Clear your docket. Sole focus should be on election related issues.
 - Make the rounds on Election Day
- Circuit Clerk
 - Let your Deputy Clerk run the office so you can concentrate on Absentee issues and be available for emergency situations.
 - Remember the Law states you begin processing Absentee ballots at noon. Take advantage of that early start time.



When visiting the polls...



Things to look for

- Poll Workers only referring to one party during registration.
- Voters being directed on who to vote for.
- Election material being left in the precinct or too close to the precinct
- Poll Watchers interviewing voters in the precinct.
- Poll Watchers talking politics with voters or Poll Workers.
- Ballot Security
 - Are the ballots scattered about on a table, easily accessible to a voter?
 - Are the ballot stacked neatly behind the registration tables, only accessible by a Poll Worker?
 - Provisional Ballots being handed out like candy

Poll Watchers

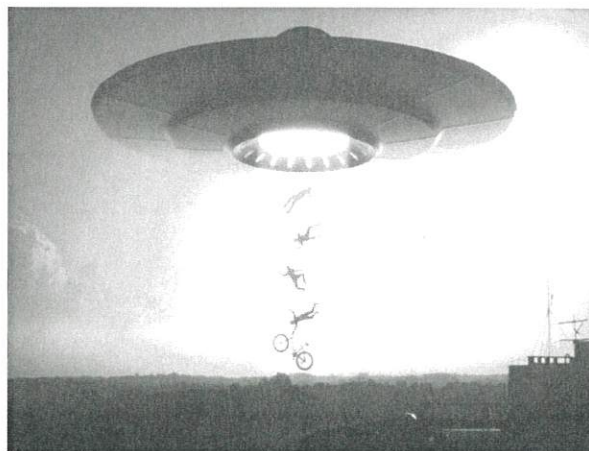
- Conduct Poll Watcher Training
 - Everyone knows the rules
 - May help minimize problems
- Poll Watchers Appointment
- Explain what is permitted
 - **Poll Watchers can monitor the process but not interfere or hinder the process**
- Explain what is not permitted
 - Cannot inspect registration books, interview voters, wear campaign attire/buttons, cannot pass out campaign literature, etc.
- Handout explaining all the Do's and Don'ts




Expect the Unexpected

If it could go wrong, it may go wrong.

- Weather Events
- Voters driving into the Precinct
- Lines stretching for blocks
- Precincts being shot up
- Power failures
- Imposters
- Raffles
- Cook Outs
- Cheerleaders





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