

Laws authorize enforcement of the election laws by the presiding officer and police officer or constable at the voting location.

APPLICABILITY OF THE 150-FOOT RULE

The 150-foot Rule broadly prohibits political and campaign activities in the areas in and around voting locations during voting hours. Since 2022, the rule has applied to both polling places and early voting sites.

The application of the 150-foot Rule is limited only to voting locations and the immediate vicinity of a voting location, so as not to place an unreasonable restriction on protected political speech.

The 150-foot Rule does not apply to central tabulation facilities, advance ballot processing locations, ballot drop-boxes, or local election offices that are not located in the same building as a polling place or early voting site.

The 150-foot Rule also does not apply to any event that takes place after Election Day, including post-election tabulation and post-election audits.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE 150-FOOT RULE

The presiding officer of each voting location is responsible for enforcing the 150-Foot Rule and other laws regarding the maintenance of peace, order, and decorum at the voting location.

Presiding officers must ensure that voting locations are unobstructed and that voters are not hindered.

At a polling location, the presiding officer is typically the Warden, though the city or town clerk may also be present and assist with enforcement. At an early voting location, the presiding officer is typically the local election official, but the local election official may authorize someone else to act in their stead.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Holding certain political signs
- Wearing certain political apparel (t-shirts, hats, buttons, pins, stickers, etc.)
- Handing out campaign literature
- Distributing stickers for write-in campaigns
- Shaking hands or otherwise greeting voters (while being a candidate on the ballot)
- Asking voters to vote in a certain manner
- Hindering or interfering with voters who are voting or on their way to vote
- Soliciting signatures on any type of petition - whether or not it pertains to the current election

Materials are considered to influence voters if they contain:

- A candidate's name
- The name of a candidate's policy proposal
- A candidate's slogan or image
- A political party name

Further, no person may hinder, delay, or interfere with a voter without lawful authority. This includes any attempt to induce a voter to disclose how they have voted before they deposit their ballot.

ALLOWED ACTIVITIES

- Campaigning for a candidate or ballot question not on the ballot in that location
- Campaigning for a candidate or issue on the ballot in a future election
- Holding a sign or wearing apparel that may be "political" but not intended to aid or defeat someone or something on the ballot
- Exit polling, if speaking to voters exiting the polling location

Voters may bring materials to assist them in the voting process, which may include campaign literature that would otherwise be prohibited in the polling place. These materials are allowed, as long as the voter does not display them to others.

Poll workers must regularly sweep voting booths, to ensure campaign literature and stickers are not left behind by voters.

Exit polling is permitted within 150 feet of a polling place on Election Day, as long as the exit pollster does not interfere with a person or voter on their way to an election.

The display of materials, phrases, and slogans promoting an issue, position, or ideology not explicitly tied to a campaign or political party on the ballot cannot be prohibited under the 150-foot Rule.