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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELECTIONS -- GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA --



The D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics provides this set of guidelines to ensure the orderly conduct of elections and to protect the rights of voters and candidates alike. Although a few of the guidelines may seem elementary, we ask that you follow them closely. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call the Voters Services office at 727-2525.

### Guidelines for Covering Activity at the Polls

- Upon entering the voting area, contact the Precinct Captain. This representative of the Board has supervisory authority in the polling place and is the person required to authorize your presence there.  
*(Be prepared to present your media credentials)*
- Do not converse with any voter in the voting area.
- Although you may take pictures in the polling place during voting hours, you must first confer with the Precinct Captain regarding camera placement, lighting, etc..
- Do not impede the voting process or the work of the polling place staff.
- Do not in any way compromise or endanger the secrecy of a voter's ballot (e.g. Taking a picture in such a way as to show how a ballot was voted).
- D.C. Law prohibits electioneering or obstruction of any kind, within a 50 foot radius of the polling place entrance. Within this 50 foot boundary, do not:
  - Wear any campaign buttons or regalia;
  - Hand out any campaign literature;
  - Urge the election, or defeat, of any candidate or measure on the ballot.
- Your presence in the polling place is authorized for media coverage only. Please leave promptly after completing your work.

### Guidelines for Exit Polling

- Question only those people leaving the polling place.
- Be sure to tell people that responding to questions is purely voluntary.
- Do not interfere in any way with access to the polling place.
- Do not position yourself within a 50 foot radius of the polling place entrance, the area marked by red, white, and blue signs. This limit applies regardless of weather conditions.