

### Assistance to Voters

Generally, no one except a voter preparing their ballot is allowed within five feet of the voting booth. However, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officers or agent of the voter's union (7-13-780, Section 208 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act). Assistants may include, but are not limited to, family members, friends, candidates, poll watchers, poll managers, voters waiting in line, and minors.

#### Procedure for Determining if a Voter is Entitled to Assistance

- Step 1.** The voter must request assistance. Do not assume that anyone needs assistance, volunteer anyone for assistance, or allow anyone else to do so.
- Step 2.** Say to the voter: "The law provides that any voter who requires assistance to vote for reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write is entitled to that assistance. Do you request assistance for one of these reasons?"
- Step 3.** If the voter answers yes, say: "You may choose anyone you wish to assist you in casting your ballot except for your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer of your union, or an agent of your union."
- Step 4.** After the voter has selected an assistant, confirm with the assistant that the assistant is not the voter's employer, agent of that employer, or officer (or agent) of the voter's union.
- Step 5.** The voter and their chosen assistant enter the voting booth to cast the voter's ballot.

Under normal circumstances a poll manager would accompany the voter into the voting booth only if the poll manager is chosen to be the voter's assistant. However, if the managers have credible evidence or good reason to suspect that there is any scheme to defraud voters who are entitled to assistance, a poll manager may be appointed to accompany the voter and the voter's assistant into the voting booth to act as an observer. An example of this may be if a non-poll manager is frequently asked to assist. This manager cannot mark the ballot or take any part in assisting the voter. The manager is there only as an observer to ensure the ballot is marked in strict accordance with the voter's wishes. If the manager, acting as an observer, sees that the assistant is not marking the ballot as the voter wishes, or is otherwise acting improperly, the manager should challenge the ballot.

#### Instructions after the Voter has Entered the Voting Booth

After a voter has entered a voting booth and asks for further instructions concerning the procedure for voting, two managers must enter the booth to provide instructions. Poll managers must not in any manner request or seek to persuade or induce the voter to vote in any particular manner. After giving instructions, the voter must be allowed to cast their ballot in secret (7-13-1830).

\* handbook located on [scvotes.gov](http://scvotes.gov)

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