

LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION IN VIRGINIA

**Voter suppression and voter intimidation are illegal.
Report any activity that threatens, harasses, or intimidates voters.**

Because of recent changes in Virginia election laws and anticipated challenges to some voters on Election Day, it is more important than ever for Virginia voters to know their rights at the polls!

ACTIVITIES AT THE POLLING PLACE:

- Each political party or independent candidate can choose between 1-3 representatives to be present at the polling place. They must be registered voters in Virginia and must have written credentials from the party or candidate designating them as representatives.
- Members of the news media are allowed in the polling place for a "reasonable and limited period of time." After a reasonable time, election officials can ask the media to leave.
- Police, or those specifically appointed by election officers who have the powers of law enforcement officers, are allowed inside the polling place.
- Any other observers must have prior written authorization from the electoral board to be at the polling place on Election Day.
- No person may loiter, congregate or solicit votes within 40 feet of the entrance to any polling place.

VOTER CHALLENGES:

- Any election official or qualified voter may challenge another voter's qualifications.
- If a voter is challenged, election officials may question the voter's qualifications.
- If a voter insists s/he is qualified to vote and signs an official statement affirming her/his qualifications, the voter **must be allowed to vote using A REGULAR BALLOT.**
- If a voter does not sign the statement, the voter may not be allowed to vote.

HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION:

It is a crime under Virginia and federal law to intimidate or discriminate against voters. No one, including law enforcement officers and election officials, can:

- Harass, intimidate, or interfere with a qualified voter's right to vote;
- Challenge votes for discriminatory reasons such as race, ethnicity, language ability, or gender;
- Threaten, bribe, or otherwise try to illegally influence votes; or
- Illegally deter a qualified person from voting.

PLEASE REPORT VOTER INTIMIDATION OR DECEPTIVE PRACTICES TO:

- **Your local municipal clerk, or the chief elections inspector at your polling place**
- **The Virginia State Board of Elections:** 800-552-9745 or info@sbe.virginia.gov
- **The U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline:** 800-253-3931; TTY line 877-267-8971
- **The Election Protection Hotline:** 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)
- **Advancement Project Voter Protection:** 202-728-9557 or koconnor@advancementproject.org



Advancement Project is a next generation, civil rights action tank advancing universal opportunity and a just democracy.
For more information go to: www.apvote.org