



PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE COMMUNITY AWARENESS BULLETIN

CAB 004-20

October 26, 2020

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) reminds Pennsylvania residents to be vigilant this election season and to be aware of safety at the polls on Election Day. While the PSP is not aware of any coordinated campaigns or specified threats, Pennsylvania’s status as a swing state has created an environment that may motivate individuals or groups to claim to be “poll watchers” and engage in intimidating or threatening behaviors, or post incorrect information on social media to deceive or confuse voters.

Poll Watchers

Under Pennsylvania law, poll watchers must be credentialed by the county and must be registered voters in that county. They must carry their credentials with them and show it on demand. While they are authorized to be inside the polling place, they are not permitted to be in the area where votes are tabulated. Poll watchers must also adhere to a code of conduct that prevents them from approaching voters or otherwise interfere with people’s right to vote except under certain circumstances.

Any person claiming to be a poll watcher who is engaging in voter intimidation or threatening conduct is violating state and federal law. Examples of voter intimidation include:

- Photographing voters
- Spreading false or misleading information
- Blocking the entrance to a polling place
- Asking voters for documentation when no documentation is required
- Threatening violence, using offensive language or raised voice to confront or otherwise question voters

The Pennsylvania Department of State oversees elections in Pennsylvania. It is their job to keep elections fair and honest. If you are aware of election fraud or irregularities, you can report it to them. You must be registered to vote in Pennsylvania to file a complaint using [this online complaint form](#) or contact the voter hotline 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) for any immediate needs.

Where to Find Correct Information

During the election season, some groups conduct disinformation campaigns to deceive voters. These campaigns are often targeted toward a specific group to discourage them from voting. Social media posts or emails may give false information about changes to polling places or times to vote, changes in eligibility, or other false information. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has a [website](#) that debunks common rumors. **Before acting on anything you find online, verify the information at <https://www.votespa.com> or call (877) 868-3772.**

MISINFORMATION

False information that is spread, regardless of whether there is intent to mislead.

DISINFORMATION

Deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda.

Definitions from dictionary.com