



IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE

October 28, 2004

To all Republican Party Election Day poll watchers:

Your name has been filed to serve as a poll watcher on Election Day, on behalf of the Republican Party or a Republican candidate. The Democratic Party recognizes the legal right of poll watchers, under Florida election law, to perform their lawful duties.

We want to make sure that all poll watchers recognize the importance of their role in this process and understand the repercussions for abusing that role. As a poll watcher you have the ability to protect one of the most sacred rights of our democracy. Regardless of party affiliation, we can all agree that no citizen should be deprived of their right to vote without good cause. Whatever the outcome on Election Day, the challenge process must not be abused as a means of harassing or intimidating voters, or of obstructing the ability of lawfully qualified and registered citizens to vote safely, efficiently and conveniently.

You should be aware, that, under Florida law, a poll watcher must explain in writing *and under oath* the basis for a challenge. This affirmation requires that the poll watcher have personal knowledge of the facts upon which the challenge is based.

Florida law provides that a challenger is to be removed from the polling place if his or her activities slow down the voting process or intimidate voters. Indeed, *it is a crime under Florida law to be in a polling place to "intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such person to vote."* (Fla. Stat. § 104.0515(3)). Therefore, should a challenger make a knowingly false challenge, that person could be subject to criminal prosecution.

Please be advised that the National Democratic Party and the Florida Democratic Party will insist on strict enforcement of the law. You have now been provided notice of the law, and thus, please govern yourself accordingly.

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee, www.democrats.org.
The communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.