

#### **IV. Election Day & Early Voting**

The Board of Supervisors of Elections has authorized two (2) days of Early Voting for the May 2017 Election. Early Voting will take place at the Magruder Park Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2017 and 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday April 29, 2017. All City Wards will vote at one (1) location for early voting.

#### **Location of Polling Places for Election Day, May 2, 2017**

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. All polling locations are accessible to the disabled.

Ward 1	Hyattsville Municipal Building 4310 Gallatin Street <b>First Floor, Multipurpose Room</b>
Ward 2	Magruder Park Recreation Center 3911 Hamilton Street (40 <sup>th</sup> Avenue & Hamilton Street) <b>Rear Multipurpose Room</b>
Ward 3	University Christian Church 6800 Adelphi Road <b>Sanctuary Room</b>
Ward 4	St. Matthew's Episcopal/Anglican Church 5901 36 <sup>th</sup> Avenue <b>Entrance off of 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b>
Ward 5	Magruder Park Recreation Center 3911 Hamilton Street (40 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hamilton Street) <b>Front Multipurpose Room</b>

#### **Candidate Rules for Election Day**

1. No person is permitted to canvass or electioneer in the polling room or within a radius of one hundred (100) feet from the entrance of the building being used as the polling place. A painted line will mark these distances.
2. Candidates having poll watchers are advised that at no time can the watchers interfere with the judges and clerks in the performance of their duties.
3. Poll watchers may not enter into the area of the voting machines, and must remain beyond the beginning edge of the table(s) being used by the election judges. Only the Chief Judge may give the number of voters to poll watchers.
4. All placards, posters and other material used by candidates must be removed from the area of distribution at the close of the polls.

5. It will be unlawful for any person, other than the judges and clerks, two challengers, the candidates for office and City officials to remain in general voting places at the City election after the close of the polls, except employees of the building.

### **Poll Watchers**

Poll watchers may be present in the polling place during an election. Poll watchers are intended to observe the conduct of the election and their prime concern is the integrity and fairness of the election. They may observe the election before, during and after the polls close.

Poll watchers may represent established political parties, candidates, qualified civic organizations, or organized proponents or opponents of ballot propositions. Each poll watcher must present to the Chief Judge a Challenger's and Watcher's Certificate issued by the City Clerk to be admitted as a poll watcher at a polling location.

Anyone wishing to be a poll watcher must present credentials to the Elections Coordinator by 5 p.m. the day prior to the advance voting day or the Election Day. (Credentials include a valid driver's license and letter signed by a candidate or a letter on letterhead from an organization.)

One poll watcher may be present in the polling place representing a candidate or group at any given time. When overcrowding interferes with the orderly conduct of the election, the Election Judge may ask all poll watchers to leave. The Election Judge may cause the removal of any poll watcher who is disrupting the election process.

#### ***Functions of a poll watcher:***

- Before the first ballot is cast, poll watchers may observe machine preparation. During the preparation of the machine, the counters will be verified, witnessed, and posted for inspection by the poll watcher.
- Poll watchers will be positioned near enough to the election judges to hear and see procedures. Chairs will be set up in the designated area.
- Poll watchers may challenge a person's right to vote, only on the basis of identity, that is, the person is not whom he/she purports to be. The poll watcher should politely inform the Chief Judge of the challenge.
- The Chief Judge determines whether or not to sustain a challenge.
- Poll watchers may observe the tally procedures after the polls close.
- If an error or violation continues after the Chief Judge has been informed, the poll watcher should record his/her observations, immediately contact the Hyattsville Board of Supervisors of Elections at 301-985-5001 and remain at the polling place until proper authorities arrive. Under no circumstances should a poll watcher argue with the Election Judge or interfere with the election process.

The Judges of Election are the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day. No person except a judge may handle or touch election supplies or materials. A police officer may be in the polling place to preserve order and carry out lawful directions given by the judges. If the poll watcher(s) at any polling location become disruptive or interfere with the election process, they will be asked to leave.

Poll watchers may not enter into the area of the voting machines, and must remain beyond the beginning edge of the table(s) being used by the Election Judges. Only the Chief Judge may give the number of voters to poll watchers.

Poll watchers, having presented their certificates, shall be assigned a position inside the polling room to enable them to see any person who offers to vote. Such challengers and watchers may be permitted to remain within the polling room until the returns are completed. No challengers or watchers shall be permitted to enter a polling place before 7:00 a.m. unless they are present one-half hour before the opening. (6:30 a.m.). They are not to confer in the polling room with any voter. Questions pertaining to this should be directed to the Board of Supervisors of Elections on Election Day.

## **Complaints**

### **Filing Procedure for Complaints**

- A. Any candidate for office who believes they should be certified as elected by the Board and has not been certified, must file with the Board a complaint within seven (7) days of the Board's certification. Any person who is a qualified voter of the City and believes that a violation of this chapter or a provision of the City Charter has occurred, except for the question of the certification of a candidate by the Board, may file a written complaint with allegation, and must be signed by the complaining party. Such complaint must be filed with the Board within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the date of the alleged violation, but may not be filed later than one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of the most recent election to which the alleged violation pertains.**

