

# Intimidation and Polling Place Issues

Last Updated: 10/23/24

## Intimidation at the Polling Place

Voter intimidation refers to the act of intimidating, threatening, or coercing another person to interfere with their right to vote for the candidate or issue of their choice. Voter intimidation can happen at the polling place or at a voter's door by people canvassing.

Flag FIRST PERSON reports of voter intimidation to your captain. Refer to FAQ 71, ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. See [LINK](#) for questions to ask.

Flag FIRST PERSON reports of poll worker misconduct to your captain. Refer to FAQ 70 and other necessary FAQs to determine if the poll workers actions were inappropriate. Ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. See [LINK](#) for questions to ask.

Flag FIRST PERSON reports of door to door intimidation to your captain. See [LINK](#) for information to provide and questions to ask.

### DO NOT

- Ask voters to take pictures inside the polling place. In many places, this is illegal. See FAQ 69 for more.
- Escalate second hand reports or reports from social media

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Intimidation

1. Did you experience direct harassment?
2. If yes, please describe in detail what happened:
  - a. Where did the incident occur / how close to the polling place entrance?
  - b. What did the person say to you / what did they do?
3. Did you notify poll workers/election officials? What was their response?
4. Did you see police or security guards?
5. Were you able to vote?

6. Did this incident cause you to fear for your safety or have a fear of voting? Did you consider not voting?
7. If you are not voting at this time, do you plan to return later?
8. Ask race/ethnicity

## **Poll Worker Misconduct**

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Poll Worker Misconduct

Did you personally observe or were you affected by the poll worker's actions?

1. If yes, please describe in detail what happened:
  - a. Where did the incident occur (inside or outside; at the check-in desk, voting booth, ballot drop off, etc.)?
  - b. What did the poll worker say to you / what did they do?
2. Did you notify other poll workers/election officials? What was their response?
3. Were you able to vote?
4. Did this incident cause you to fear for your safety or have a fear of voting? Did you consider not voting?
5. If you were unable to vote because of these actions, do you plan to return later?
6. Ask race/ethnicity

NOTE: It is acceptable to include the names of elections officials, including poll workers, in OVL tickets. This is not considered PII as they are serving in a public capacity.

## **Door to Door Intimidation**

### What to Do When Taking Reports of Door-to-Door Intimidation

1. Confirm that the caller feels safe / is in a safe location and the canvassers have left.
2. Explain to the caller that their voter registration information, including their political party and whether they voted is public record, which is how partisan groups get the information.
3. Assure callers that WHO they voted for is 100% confidential.

### Ask These Questions for Reports of Door-to-Door Intimidation

1. Did the caller feel threatened?
2. Who came to the door and when did it happen?
3. Did it appear they had targeted lists or were they doing a general canvass?

4. Did they appear to have specific information about the caller or other residents of the address?
5. Did they appear to have an organizational affiliation (hats, shirts, signs, etc...)?
  - i. Note specifics in the ticket; this is an exception to partisan language restriction.
6. Did they leave any materials?
  - a. If so, can they take pictures then text/email them to us?
7. Did the canvassers loiter in the area after knocking on doors?
8. Did they seem to be taking any type of coordinated action?
9. Has the caller voted? If not, will this experience influence the caller's decision to vote?

NOTE: If the caller gives the name/s of anyone who came to their door, it is okay to include the name/s in the ticket details.

## Misinformation:

Election misinformation, whether via robocall, mailer, flyer, or social media post, are intentional attempts to use false information to affect the participation of voters in elections. This may include spreading an incorrect election date, false and misleading information about candidates, other types of information intended to deceive, dissuade, or discourage people from voting.

There are different procedures to follow depending upon the method and platform where the misinformation is being broadcast. Flag all misinformation reports to your captain. Ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. See LINKS for questions to ask: robocall, mailer/flyer, online/social media.

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Robocall Misinformation:

1. What is the phone number where you got the call?
  - a. Is it a cell phone or landline?
  - b. What phone carrier is that number with? (who provides the service - AT&T, Verizon, Tmobile, etc.)
2. What is the phone number that you received the call on?
  - a. What was the time and date of the robocall?
  - b. Can you send a screenshot of the caller ID/call log?
    - i. They can text to the hotline after you open a text with the caller. Or email it to [hotline@866ourvote.org](mailto:hotline@866ourvote.org)
3. How did the caller identify themselves?
4. Can you provide a recording of the message?
  - a. They can text to the hotline after you open a text with the caller or email it to [hotline@866ourvote.org](mailto:hotline@866ourvote.org)
5. What did the message say?
  - a. Does it contain intimidating or threatening messages?
  - b. Does it include misleading information about where/when/how to vote?

- c. Does it target a specific audience, like voters of color?
6. How did the call make you feel?
7. Have you voted yet?
8. Did this incident cause you to fear for your safety or have a fear of voting? If you have not voted, are you now considering not voting?

Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Mailer/Flyer Misinformation:

1. Where and when did you receive this?
2. Who does it say the document is from?
3. What does it say?
4. Can you provide a photo?
  - a. They can text to the hotline after you open a text with the caller or email it to [hotline@866ourvote.org](mailto:hotline@866ourvote.org)

Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Online Misinformation/Intimidation:

1. Which platform were you using (Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, etc)?
2. When did you see this?
3. Who does it say it is from?
4. What does the post/website say?
  - a. Does it mention a specific election worker or location?
  - b. Does it mention a specific community or group of voters?
  - c. Does it contain personal information of an election worker?
  - d. Does it contain bad information on where/when/how to vote, or who is eligible to vote?
5. Can you provide a screenshot and the link? (Get both if possible)
  - i. They can text to the hotline after you open a text with the caller or email it to [hotline@866ourvote.org](mailto:hotline@866ourvote.org).

## **Long Lines:**

Unfortunately, long lines to vote are the norm in some places, but even then, they may be a sign of a bigger issue. Depending upon the situation and state laws, you should investigate other options for the voter, including if there are other locations where the voter can vote, including county vote centers or other locations if voters are not required to vote at a specific polling place. Discuss all the options with the voter and be aware of poll closing hours before suggesting they go elsewhere, especially if travel time means they will be “cutting it close.”

Flag reports of long lines to your captain.

Refer to FAQ 66, ask the appropriate questions, and document with details in OVL. See LINK for questions to ask.

Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Long Lines:

1. How long is the line?
2. Is there a safety concern (weather or otherwise)

3. Are people leaving the line without voting?
4. Has information been communicated explaining the reason for the wait?
  - a. Broken machines, not enough poll workers, etc.
5. What are the demographics of people in line? Is this impacting predominantly voters of color?
  - a. This question helps show patterns of potential discrimination.

## **Broken Machines:**

Broken, missing, or malfunctioning voting equipment can cause increased wait times, and in the worst cases, poll closures requiring voters to go elsewhere. Since broken machines typically cause long lines, your ticket may include both issues.

Flag reports of broken machines to your captain. Refer to FAQ 67, ask the appropriate questions, and document with details in OVL. See LINK for questions to ask.

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Nonoperational Voting Machines

1. How many and what type of machines are down?
2. How long have they been down?
3. Are the poll workers aware? Have they made any announcements?
4. Are people still able to vote? How?
  - a. Paper ballot, another machine, etc.
5. What are the wait times?
6. Are people leaving the polling location without voting?
7. Have you or other voters been directed to leave/go elsewhere?

## **Poll Not Open/Poll Closing Early:**

The majority of states have officially designated poll open and close times. Reports of polling places that are not open should be reported to your captain immediately, BUT FIRST, you should check the caller's voter registration to confirm that they are at the correct polling place. Follow the procedures at LINK.

Polls are generally required to stay open until a specific certain time or for a certain number of hours on Election Day. All voters in the line before that designated time must be allowed to vote. NOTE: This may or may not apply to early in person voting. See FAQ 25-28 for more on early voting.

Confirm the voter's official polling place by looking up their voter registration. Polling locations can change for various reasons including redistricting, and even at the last minute.

If the voter's registration confirms they are at the correct location, refer to FAQs 15 and 65, and confirm the correct hours. If the location should be open, alert your captain. Ask the appropriate questions, and document with details in OVL.

## Poll is Not Open or the Opening is Delayed

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Polls Not Open

After confirming the voter is at the correct location, and the correct hours for the voting in that location, ask:

1. Are there other voters waiting for the location to open?
2. Are there poll workers at the location? If yes, have they made any announcements, does it appear they are setting up/preparing to open?
3. Are there any "Vote Here" signs indicating this is a polling place?
4. How many people, by your best guess, are waiting?
5. Are people leaving the polling location without voting?
6. Have you been directed to leave/go elsewhere?
7. What are the demographics of the people in line? Is this impacting predominantly voters of color?
  - a. This question helps show patterns of potential discrimination.

## Early Poll Closure

### What To Do and Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Polls Closing Early

First, tell the voter to STAY IN LINE. Any voter *in the line* before the poll closing time must be allowed to vote, even if not inside yet. **If they leave the line then try to get back in line after the official time polls close, they will not be allowed back in the line.**

Then, confirm the voter's correct polling location. If the voter's registration confirms they are at the correct location, refer to FAQs 15 and 65, and confirm the hours that the polling place should be open. If the location should be open, alert your captain. Ask the questions below and document the details in OVL.

### Questions To Ask Voters When Taking Reports of Polls Closing Early

1. Are there poll workers at the location and are they aware of the correct hours?
2. Has an announcement been made and a reason given for the early closure?
3. How many people, by your best guess, are in line waiting to vote?
4. Are people leaving the polling location without voting?
5. Are the poll workers preventing people from voting who were *in the line* before the poll closing time?

# Chat Tips

## **Misleading Robocalls**

:robot: `Misleading Robocalls` :robot:

Election misinformation, whether via robocall, mailer, flyer, or social media post, are \*intentional attempts to use false information to affect the participation of voters in elections\*.

This may include spreading an incorrect election date, false and misleading information about candidates, or other types of information intended to deceive, dissuade, or discourage people from voting.

\*Flag all misinformation reports to your captain\*. Ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation](https://eplegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation)

## **Election Misinformation**

:dizzy\_face: :vote\_button: `Election Misinformation` :dizzy\_face: :vote\_button:

Election misinformation, whether via robocall, mailer, flyer, or social media post, are \*intentional attempts to use false information to affect the participation of voters in elections\*.

This may include spreading an incorrect election date, false and misleading information about candidates, or other types of information intended to deceive, dissuade, or discourage people from voting.

\*Flag all misinformation reports to your captain\*. Ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation](https://eplegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation)

## **Voter Intimidation**

:sos: `Voter Intimidation` :sos:

Voter intimidation refers to the act of \*intimidating, threatening, or coercing another person to interfere with their right to vote\* for the candidate or issue of their choice. Voter intimidation can happen at the polling place or at a voter's door by people canvassing.

\*Flag FIRST PERSON reports of voter intimidation to your captain\*. Refer to FAQ 71 if it is at the polling place, ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [https://eplegal.wpengine.com/#voter\\_intimidation](https://eplegal.wpengine.com/#voter_intimidation)

## **Polling Place Issues: Broken Machines**

:tools: :vote: `Broken Vote Machines` :vote: :tools:

\*Broken, missing, or malfunctioning voting equipment\* can cause increased wait times, and in the worst cases, poll closures requiring voters to go elsewhere. Since broken machines typically cause long lines, your ticket may include both issues.

\*Flag reports of broken machines to your captain\*. Refer to FAQ 67, ask the appropriate questions, and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#broken\\_machines](http://eplegal.wpengine.com/#broken_machines)

### **Poll Worker Misconduct**

:no\_entry\_sign: :vote: `Poll Worker Misconduct` :no\_entry\_sign: :vote:

\*Flag FIRST PERSON reports of poll worker misconduct to your captain\*. Refer to FAQ 70 and other necessary FAQs to determine if the poll workers actions were inappropriate. Ask the appropriate questions and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#pollworker\\_misconduct](http://eplegal.wpengine.com/#pollworker_misconduct)

`NOTE` It is acceptable to include the names of elections officials, including poll workers, in OVL tickets. This is not considered PII as they are serving in a public capacity.

### **Polling Place Issues: Long Lines**

`Long Lines at the Polls` :vote: :woman\_walking\_tone5: :person\_walking:  
:woman\_walking\_tone3: :man\_walking\_tone4:

Unfortunately, \*long lines to vote\* are the norm in some places, but \*may be a sign of a bigger issue\*. Depending upon the situation and state laws, you should \*investigate other options for the voter\*, including if there are other locations where the voter can vote, including county vote centers or other locations if voters are not required to vote at a specific polling place. \*Flag reports of long lines to your captain\*

\*Discuss all the options with the voter\* and \*be aware of poll closing hours\* before suggesting they go elsewhere, especially if travel time means they will be “cutting it close.”

Refer to FAQ 66, ask the appropriate questions, and document with details in OVL. Go here for questions to ask: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#long\\_lines](http://eplegal.wpengine.com/#long_lines)

### **Polls Closed**

:lock: :classical\_building: `Polls Closed` :classical\_building: :lock:

The majority of states have \*officially designated poll open and close times\*. FIRST, you should \*check the caller’s voter registration\* to confirm that they are at the correct polling place.

\*Flag reports of polling places that are not open but should be to your captain\*.

Go here for questions to ask and more: [eplegal.wpengine.com/#polls\\_closed](http://eplegal.wpengine.com/#polls_closed)

`NOTE` This may or may not apply to early in person voting. See FAQ 25-28 for more on early voting.

## **URL Slugs**

Arrest/Conviction



[elegal.wpengine.com/#Arrest\\_conviction](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#Arrest_conviction)

Election Basics

[elegal.wpengine.com/#election\\_basics](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#election_basics)

Intimidation of voters

[https://elegal.wpengine.com/#voter\\_intimidation](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#voter_intimidation)

Misinformation

[elegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#misinformation)

Broken Machines

[elegal.wpengine.com/#broken\\_machines](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#broken_machines)

Long Lines

[elegal.wpengine.com/#long\\_lines](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#long_lines)

Polls Not Open/Closing Early

[elegal.wpengine.com/#polls\\_closed](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#polls_closed)

Poll Worker Misconduct

[elegal.wpengine.com/#pollworker\\_misconduct](https://elegal.wpengine.com/#pollworker_misconduct)