



# *Arlington Fire District*

11 Burnett Boulevard  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
www.afd.org

Business: (845) 486-6300  
Fax: (845) 486-6322

**For Emergencies**  
***DIAL 911***

*“Safeguarding Our Community”*

---

## **POLL WATCHER’S CERTIFICATE**

DATE OF ELECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to the provisions of §8-500 of the Election Law of the State of New York, the undersigned hereby appoints:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL  
(PRINT)

To act as a Poll Watcher on their behalf at the Arlington Fire District Annual Election of Fire Commissioner in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ward in the Town of Poughkeepsie, County of Dutchess, New York.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Candidate (Print)



## ***ARLINGTON FIRE DISTRICT***

### ***POLL WATCHER'S GUIDE***

#### **OVERVIEW**

To ensure fairness and honest elections, New York State law provides for appointing poll watchers to observe voting at the polls. Poll watchers are designated by candidates, political parties, independent organizations which have candidates on the ballot.

#### **THE ROLE OF THE POLL WATCHER**

The role of the poll watcher is to observe elections at the polling sites on behalf of a particular candidate, political party or organization and where they observe irregularities, report these observations to either the Election Chairperson, Election Inspector and/or Board of Elections.

#### **POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Poll watchers must be registered voters in the Arlington Fire District. Poll watchers must be certified in writing by the candidate and must present said certificate to one of the Election Inspector (s).

#### **NUMBER OF POLL WATCHERS**

New York State law allows three poll watchers per election district for each Party Committee or independent body.

#### **POLL WATCHER RIGHTS**

The Poll Watcher *may*:

- Arrive fifteen (15) minutes early before the opening to observe the opening of the polls.
- Observe the closing of the polls and the final canvasses.
- Challenge individual voters on the basis of:
  - Signature Authenticity
  - Residence
  - Multiple Voting
  - Qualification to Vote
  - Electioneering

### **POLL WATCHER LIMITATIONS**

The Poll Watcher *may not*:

- Electioneer in any manner.
  - Electioneering includes soliciting votes or distributing, wearing or carrying political literature, posters, banners, or buttons or displaying refreshments showing a candidate or party's name.
- Tamper with election materials.
- Interfere with the election process.
- Protest a vote ruling.
- Accompany a voter to the voting booth.

### **IF YOU SEE A VIOLATION**

Poll watchers are not law enforcement officers; however, they may attempt to enforce their candidate's rights by reporting a violation to any of the following:

- Election Inspector(s) and/or Election Chairperson
- The Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department - (845) 485-3666
- The Dutchess County Board of Elections - (845) 486-2473