

Law Enforcement FAQs Related to November 3, 2020 Election (including early voting and election day)

Who may be at a polling place (including Early Vote Centers and absentee ballot drop off sites) (and 100-foot buffer zone) during the 46 days before the election (September 18 – November 2) and on Election Day (November 3)?

- Members of the public and their children who are actively engaged in the process of voting
- Individuals who are assisting a voter who has explicitly requested such assistance
- Election Officials, Election Judges, and Sergeants-at-Arms who are administering the voting process
- Voters making a written complaint
- Properly-credentialed members of the media who have checked in with the head judges
- Challengers appointed under enabling legislation
- Teachers and students participating in Students Voting, which is a mock election program for K-12 students
- On-duty staff when a polling place is co-located with a facility conducting its normal business operations on Election Day
- Representatives of the Secretary of State's Office, the County Auditor's Office, and the Minneapolis City Clerk's Office who are observing election procedures
- Individuals conducting exit polls of voters (only allowed outside of the voting room)

When should law enforcement be present at a polling place?

Officers may be present at a polling place when called by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Head or Assistant Head Election Judge, staff at elections headquarters, site supervisors at Early Vote Centers and absentee ballot drop off sites, or when dispatched by Emergency Communications. Officers may be at a polling place if they witness behavior that is endangering life or property, regardless if they are called to the scene. Patrols of polling places should be limited to standard operation during active voting hours and may be intensified once the voting activities are closed to voters for the day.

When arriving at a polling place, who should an officer check in with?

Upon arrival at a polling place, an officer should first ensure that any potential life and safety hazards are appropriately addressed. Once this action is complete, or if this action is not necessary, the officer must check in with the Head Election Judge or Sergeant-at-Arms on Election Day or with a site supervisor at Early Vote Centers and absentee ballot drop off sites.

What are Early Vote Centers?

Early Vote Centers are polling places that allow in-person absentee balloting activities prior to Election Day.