

Town of Peacham

Policy on Politicking at the Polling Place

References: 17 VSA §2505, 17 VSA §2508, 17 VSA §2564, 17 VSA §2572, 17 VSA §2581

Vermont law prohibits politicking within the building containing the polling place.

- Voters shall remove campaign buttons, hats, and other paraphernalia before coming in to vote. Coats shall be kept on if a person is wearing a campaign shirt. This applies only to materials that a) display the name of a candidate on the ballot, or b) an organized political party, or c) that demonstrate support or opposition to a question on the ballot.
- All conversations about candidates shall be kept outside of the polling place.
- Individual voters may bring in brochures and written campaign materials for their own use, but these may not be shown to others or left in the voting booth or polling place.
- Exit polling is considered politicking and shall remain outside of the polling place.

Vermont law permits the presiding officer to designate an area outside of the polling place where candidates, supporters and pollsters can stand, offer information, conduct polls, and/or hold signs.

- Designated campaign area: people who are campaigning shall remain on the grass on the northeast side of Town Hall. Campaigning is not allowed on the street and driveway, and parking lot, walkway, and other paved areas.
- The voter's progress into and out of the polling place shall not be blocked.
- Signs that display the name of a candidate on the ballot may be placed in the designated campaign area, as defined above. Signs placed in the ground and left unattended are limited to two per candidate.
- Vehicles with campaign signs may only park near the polling place for the average amount of time it would take someone to vote. Election officials have the authority to require that cars remaining in the parking lot for longer than 30 minutes be moved off site.

Each organized political party, each candidate on the ballot not representing an organized political party, and each committee supporting or opposing any public question on the ballot shall have the right to have not more than two representatives for each voting district, in a polling place but outside the guardrail, for the purpose of observing the voting process and challenging the right of any person to vote.

- Poll watchers SHALL:
 - upon entry, present evidence that they meet the legal requirements to be poll watchers.
 - remain in a specifically-designated area. The designated poll watching area is on the bleachers directly opposite the entrance table, as far as the first supporting post.

- remove campaign buttons, hats, and other paraphernalia before coming in to vote. Coats shall be kept on if a person is wearing a campaign shirt. This applies only to materials that a) display the name of a candidate on the ballot, or b) an organized political party, or c) that demonstrate support or opposition to a question on the ballot.
- not speak to voters.
- not distract or disturb or interrupt election officials.
- not use cell phones, cameras, recording devices, or other communication devices inside the polling place.
- not set up their own tables and require voters to stop and give their names – either inside or outside the polling place.
- not ask to view the checklist.

Adopted by the Board of Civil Authority on July 29, 2026.

Attest: 

Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk