

CHAPTER FOUR

RESTRICTED ACTIVITY

Restricted Activity at the Voting Place

Within the guardrail enclosure, only the clerk, election officials, people providing assistance to voters who requested it, and not more than 2 voters in excess of the number of voting booths, are allowed. Party workers and others may remain in the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure provided they do not attempt to influence voters or interfere with their free passage.

On Election Day on public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, a person may not:

- **Interfere with the voters' free passage;**
- ***AMENDED*** Influence or attempt to influence another person's decision regarding a **candidate for an office that is on the ballot for the election that day, whether or not the candidate's name is on the ballot** or a **question that is on the ballot for the election that day;**
- **Use cellular phones, voice pagers or similar devices to make audible communication within the voting place** that influences or attempts to influence a voter's decision regarding a candidate or ballot issue;
- ***AMENDED*** Display advertising material, operate an advertising medium, or distribute campaign literature, posters, palm cards, buttons, badges, stickers, or **apparel** containing a candidate's name or otherwise intending to influence the opinion of any voter;
 - **Campaign buttons** may be worn only by persons who are present in the voting place solely for the purpose of voting. The longest dimension of the button may not exceed 3 inches. Everyone else is prohibited from wearing campaign buttons of any size. **Badges or stickers** containing a candidate's name or promoting a question on the ballot are prohibited.
- ***NEW*** **Distribute or collect voter registration applications** inside or on public property within 250 feet of the entrance (authorized election officials excepted).

The **voting place** is the building in which ballots are cast at an election.

The **guardrail enclosure** is the area within 6 feet of the voting booths and the ballot box.

The **warden** is the presiding officer at the voting place and is responsible for the enforcement of the law governing voting and counting procedures. The jurisdiction of the warden includes the voting place and the area within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place.

The **municipal clerk** is the supervisor of elections and is responsible for advising the warden on election laws and procedures.

See 21-A MRS §1(49)

Additional Candidate Restrictions

On Election Day on public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, **a candidate or no more than one designated representative** may not:

- **State the name of the office sought or ask a person to vote for them;**
 - Candidates are permitted within the voting place and may state their name and communicate orally with voters, as long as they do not attempt to influence their vote;
- **Wear any button, name tag, apparel or label or have or use any item or sign** displaying the candidate's name or the name of the office the candidate is seeking;
- ***NEW* Collect or solicit voter signatures on a petition** in support of the candidate's candidacy for an office the candidate is seeking in that election year;
- ***NEW* Collect or solicit contributions** in support of the candidate's candidacy for an office they are seeking in that election year;
- ***NEW* Collect or solicit qualifying contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act** in support of the candidate's candidacy for an office they are seeking in that election year.

Legal References

Positions at the Voting Place	21-A MRS § 681
Political Influence	21-A MRS § 682(2)
Definition of Political Advertising	21-A MRS § 682(3)
Political Activities Prohibited by Candidates	21-A MRS § 682(7)
Regulated Activities at the Voting Place	21-A MRS § 683