

Challenger Training

Agenda

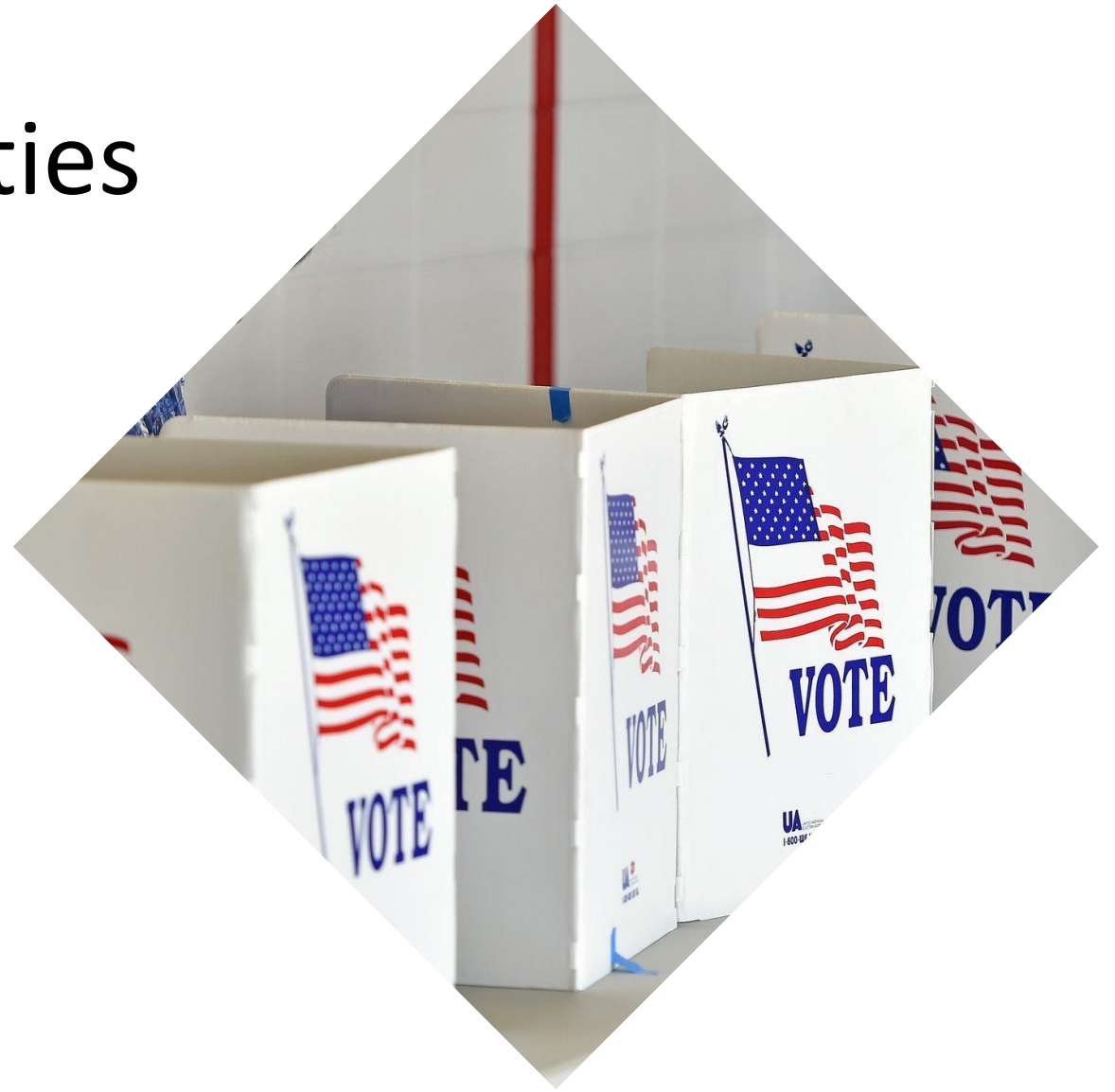
- Poll challenging
 - What is a challenger?
 - Responsibilities
 - Provisional Ballots
 - Shoulds & Shouldn'ts
 - Questions

What is a Challenger?

- A person present at a polling place on the day of an election observing the conduct of voters on the behalf of a candidate or party.

Challenger responsibilities

- Protecting voting rights
- Reporting data to MCDC
- Monitoring for anything abnormal



Before Election Day

- Badge pickup this week
 - Distributed through your Municipal Chairs
- Packets will include dos and don'ts and numbers to call
- Voter Protection Information
- MCDC's Voter Protection Lawyer Rebecca Conroy- [917-297-9163](tel:917-297-9163)
- Voter Protection Hotline - 1-877-NJVOTES

Challenger Responsibilities: Election Day

- Introduce yourself to the poll workers and be nice
- Explain what you will be doing as a challenger
- Give half of your credential to the poll workers for their district. The other half should be visibly worn.
 - Candidates don't have to wear a badge and are automatic Challengers
- Reporting Data

Reporting Data

- Poll Workers will post the voter turnout numbers per district every two hours
- You will receive text messages reminding you to send these results to results@morrisdems.org
- You can also reply to the text messages with plain text reports about voter turnout or any problems at the polls

A Note on Masks

- Voters are encouraged to wear masks but **may not be denied entry or their right to vote.**
- Poll workers must wear mask unless they have a medical condition.
- Poll challengers are encouraged to wear masks.
- You may ask the poll workers to wear masks, but do not speak to voters (under any circumstances).
- Notify MCDC/campaigns if poll workers are not wearing masks.

Possible Issues

- Inadequate number of provisional ballots or lack of equipment to fill them out (no pens, etc)
- **Voters being refused provisional ballots;**
- Abnormally long lines or efforts to make longer lines;
- Misinformation on signs, posters, etc.;
- Concentration of poll watchers or challengers at polling station or poll watchers, local law enforcement, or persons with official looking badges or insignia stationed at polling sites taking pictures, asking for identifying information, etc.;
- Challenge of minority voters under some pretext or other forms of voter intimidation;
- Harassment of voters near ballot drop box or polling location;
- Lack of bilingual assistance;
- Limited accessibility for the physically disabled;
- Any electioneers within 100 feet of polling locations;
- Poll workers not providing adequate instructions to voters regarding opportunities to vote;
- Problems with voting machines; or
- Slow response to voting machine breakdown.
- **Everyone has the absolute right to vote provisionally**

Challenger Responsibilities

- Poll workers are responsible for remedying issues
 - Approach poll workers first with issues you observe
- If there are issues that are not being fixed, notify MCDC

Challenger Responsibilities: Opening Shift

If you're a challenger when the polls are opening:

- Arrive at your polling place **before 6 A.M.**
 - If voting machines are not operable by 6:00 am, contact MCDC immediately
 - If polling location is not open by 6:00AM, contact MCDC immediately
 - **If either happens, take down the names, addresses, and cell phone numbers of anyone who gets there and cannot vote.**

Challenger Responsibilities: Opening Shift

- You have a right to observe the poll workers setting up the voting machines and election materials table.
 - You *don't* have a right to touch those things.
- You may observe the printing of the zero receipt to ensure that there are no votes recorded on the machine when it's opened.

Challenger Responsibilities: Closing Shift

If you're a challenger when the polls are closing:

- Anyone who gets in line by 8:00 PM is eligible to vote.
- Anyone who arrives after 8 PM *is not* eligible to vote.
- For this reason, polls will not close at 8 if there is a line of voters who got there before 8.
- Once the polls close, you should observe the closing of the voting machines and collection of the election materials.
 - The poll workers will print the election results from the machine.
 - You should ask for a receipt/copy from the machine, which you are entitled to receive as a challenger. Keep that printout for MCDC as a backup.
- **Sealed provisional ballots should be in their orange bag already.**

Provisional Ballots

- Anyone with an outstanding Vote by Mail Ballot **must fill out a provisional ballot if they go to the polls they cannot bring a completed VBM to the polling location.**
 - You can bring your VBM to a dropbox or the board of elections on election day
 - All drop boxes are locked at 8:00pm on election day
- **There is an ABSOLUTE right to vote provisionally**
 - **Your most important duty is to ensure that any voter who wants to vote is permitted to vote provisionally.**

Provisional Ballots

If a voter is turned away:

- You should call MCDC and have the voter speak with one of our attorneys.
- Gather as much information as possible on any voter who has a problem with the right to vote
 - This should be done outside of the polling place
 - Make sure you get the person's name, address, and number.

You should:

- Ask the poll workers a voter's name if you didn't hear it clearly.
- Make sure that nobody leaves without voting. Everybody votes.
- Make sure that nobody is electioneering at the polls or within 100 ft. of the entrance to the polling location (this refers to the primary door of entry)

You shouldn't:

- Talk to voters or interfere with the voting process, unless a poll worker denies someone the right to vote
- Sit at the same table as the poll worker
- Wear any form of campaign swag
- Use cellphones in the polling place
- Touch the election materials or the voting machines

CONTACT INFO

NOTIFY CAMPAIGN IMMEDIATELY OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BY CELLPHONE

- MCDC - (908) 319-7631
- Statewide Voter Protection Hotline - 1-877-NJVOTES

MCDC's election lawyer Rebekah Conroy will also be available. Please text her before calling so she can give direction as to how to proceed: [917-297-9163](tel:917-297-9163)

SUBMIT YOUR REPORT EVERY 2 HOURS AND AT THE END OF YOUR SHIFT

- You will receive a Tracking Form by email that should be submitted daily to capture specific details that arise during your shift