

USE OF FIREARMS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Section 46.03(a) of the Texas Penal Code prohibits a person from bringing a firearm onto the premises of a polling place.

- This prohibition does not apply to a peace officer, regardless of whether the police officer is on or off duty, see Tex. Pen. Code § 46.15.

ELECTIONEERING

During the voting period, a person may not wear a badge, insignia, emblem, or other similar communicative device relating to a candidate, measure, political party, or to the conduct of the election, within 100 ft. of the polling location. (Election Code Section 85.036)

- Section 32.075(e) of the Election Code specifically states that a presiding judge may not enforce electioneering provisions outside of the 100-foot distance markers.

SOUND AMPLIFICATION

Election Code Section 61.004 prohibits the use of sound amplification devices to electioneer within 1,000 feet of the polling place. (Violation is a Class C misdemeanor)

CONTACT DETAILS



361-364-6121



410 W Market St.
PO Box 579
Sinton, Texas 78387

PAMELA HILL

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR



Activities in the vicinity of the polling place



As detailed by the Texas
Secretary of State
February 16, 2024



AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE

Section 32.075 of the Election Code provides the presiding judge with the power of a district judge to enforce order and preserve the peace, including the power to issue an arrest warrant.

- A person who is arrested at a polling place while voting or waiting to vote shall be permitted to vote, if entitled to do so, before being removed from the polling place.

INDIVIDUALS PERMITTED IN THE POLLING PLACE

Individuals permitted in the polling place according to Election Code Section 61.001:

- Individuals working in an official capacity, including an election judge or clerk; a poll watcher; the secretary of state; a staff member of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State; a state inspector; a county elections officer; a voting system technician; a special peace officer; and the county chair of a political party in a primary election.
- Persons admitted to vote
- Individuals permitted to accompany persons admitted to vote, including a child under 18 years of age who is accompanying a parent; a person providing assistance to a voter; or a person accompanying a voter who has a disability.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Election Code Section 61.014 prohibits:

- Persons from using wireless communications devices within 100 ft. of the voting stations.
- Persons from using mechanical or electronic devices to record sound or images within 100 ft. of the voting stations.

Mechanical and electronic recording devices include:

- Cell phones;
- Cameras;
- Tablet computers;
- Laptop computers;
- Sound recorders;
- Smart watches; and
- Drones

The presiding judge has the authority to require persons to deactivate any such devices and further authority to require persons who do not comply to leave the early voting or election day polling place.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

Voters are allowed to bring written materials into voting stations to assist in casting their ballot.

- Election judges may use their discretion to determine if a voter is electioneering through the use of written materials.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should a police bodycam be turned off in a polling location?

- We recommend turning off police bodycams within 100 ft of a voting station regardless of whether the officer is on or off duty, pursuant to Section 61.014 of the Election Code.
- Turning off these devices within the 100 ft. zone helps maintain privacy while voters are voting and standing in line to be accepted for voting.

Are there exceptions to the wireless communications rules?

- Election Officials may use wireless communication devices to conduct official duties.
- When a polling location is also a business location, persons may use wireless communication devices for employment-related matters. Elections Officials should not interfere with the operations of a business.
- Voters with disabilities are permitted to utilize programs and applications at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

- Feel free to contact San Patricio County Elections Office at 361-364-6121.