



Election Integrity Project[®] *California*
EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

ELECTION PET PEEVES

My sister recently gifted me with a note pad. At the top of each page is the statement: “*Don’t Pet My Peeves*”. It’s the PERFECT gift.

Like most of us, I have plenty of pet peeves, but because I am a highly invested election integrity proponent and activist, the missing information in the typical county Poll Worker training tops my list.

Every year I attend my county’s Poll Worker training. There, civic minded volunteers are taught how to assist individuals to cast a ballot at a polling location. The training is all procedure, procedure, procedure. Assuming the procedures being taught are in alignment with the law, this is good.

It’s what Poll Workers are NOT taught that peeves me.

- They are NOT taught the laws that underlie the procedures. As a result, poll workers are regularly found taking shortcuts that undermine election integrity.
- They are NOT taught to THINK or problem solve.

For example, their universal, robotic directive, if there is any issue with a voter’s eligibility (voter shown to have already voted; voter appears to be unregistered), is to issue a provisional ballot. There is no consideration that there may be a technological glitch that further exploration could resolve or that user error may be at fault, and that a supervisor or a problem solver on the Hotline might easily resolve the issue. Unless the voter knows to request a supervisor’s intervention or a Hotline call, that voter’s only option is to cast a vote in an envelope, **the very thing the voter went to the polls to avoid!!**

- They are taught that they are NOT the Ballot Police (a Pet Peeve that ranks higher than my aversion to fingernails on a chalk board, cell phones at the dinner table, or—forgive me, jazz enthusiasts-- a wailing saxophone playing jazz “music”.)

The bottom line of Poll Worker training is: everybody votes!

- If the voter admits to being registered in another county, no matter. Let that voter (illegally) vote.
- If the voter admits to being ineligible to vote, let that voter (illegally) vote.
- If that voter admits to having already voted in another county, let that voter (illegally) vote.
- If a voter self-identifies as a non-citizen, let that voter (illegally) vote.

After all, “they are NOT the Ballot Police.”

REALLY? Then who is? As a lawful voter, I count on those poll workers to ensure that my ballot is properly handled and securely delivered to be counted. I also count on them to ensure that my precious vote, my *voice*, is not cancelled out or watered down by a ballot that had no legal right to be cast! **I COUNT ON THEM TO BE THE BALLOT POLICE.**

They are NOT employed to facilitate vote fraud or manipulation. They are NOT employed to ignore the basic election codes (on which they get NO training) detailing who does and who does NOT have a legal right to vote. They ARE (or should be) trained and employed to be the Ballot Police!!!

But instead, their prime directive is: “Ensure that every voter has a positive voting experience.” If a voter is turned away, that voter may not have a positive voting experience! So, eligibility be damned. Let everybody vote!

I would remind those poll workers and those who train them:

- Those voters forced to vote provisionally because there is no effort at problem resolution **are NOT having a positive voting experience.**
- Those voters who see illegitimate votes cast **are NOT having a positive voting experience.**
- Those voters who see their ballot mishandled, or who receive unwanted “assistance” because the poll worker refuses to employ the procedure and oath that protects voters **are NOT having a positive voting experience.**
- **A wide swath of the electorate, upon seeing improbable election results time after time are NOT HAVING A POSITIVE VOTING EXPERIENCE.**

The volunteers of EIPCa give of their time and treasure to restore and defend election integrity. When we are successful, my electoral pet peeves will disappear, the Ballot Police will be real and do their job, and the term “election integrity” will once again be more than a scoff-worthy cliché.

With apologies to MLK, I too have a dream—that the EIPCa vision will become a reality and California will once again feel that their votes are secure, that all votes are lawfully cast and accurately counted, and that every citizen’s voice MATTERS.

If you share that dream, EIPCa needs your help. [Our federal lawsuit](#) currently before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, will pave the way to that goal. Please support EIPCa and that lawsuit with your fervent prayers and **generous contributions** whenever you can.