



Election Integrity Project California
EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

September 4, 2018

TO PLAY THE GAME, YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE RULES

[CLICK HERE](#) for audio-visual presentation of this information)

When you go to the polls on Election Day, who is in charge? Who makes sure that procedures and laws are followed to guarantee you the rights to which you are entitled, and protect the security and sanctity of each and every vote?

“The Poll Workers,” you answer. True, that is their job. But people can do a job only as well as they are trained. **EIPCa** documentation since 2012 shows that Poll Worker training is inadequate at best, and in some places abysmal or almost non-existent. Almost all Poll Workers mean well, and do what they can, but often they lack even the most basic knowledge necessary and are ill-equipped to do the job at hand. Even worse, some are trained to do the opposite of what is called for in the law.

As a result, the answer to the question posed above is: The Educated Voter—**YOU! YOU** must know what is required, how you should be moved through the process of voting, and what should **NOT** happen. When something is amiss, it is **YOU** who must politely request that procedures be correctly followed. Poll workers have training materials and a hotline to call when in doubt. **You have the right** to ask that they use these resources to verify information and respond to your inquiries.

Whether you are trained by **EIPCa** and in the polls to observe officially, or you are just there to vote, you still have **the same basic rights**: to ask questions of the elections officials and to receive acceptable answers. (You will find that right posted on the wall of every polling place: #9 on the Voter Bill of Rights.) **[Read the entire California Voter Bill of Rights HERE.](#)**

In claiming these rights:

- Always interact with a **polite** question—**you do NOT have the right to instruct, scold or challenge.** Remember that Poll Workers have a difficult job, which they do for very little money. They deserve respect.

- **Questions** should always be **directed to the Precinct Inspector**, the person in charge of the polling place. This person has taken on a great deal more work and responsibility and should be respected as the individual tasked with correcting anything that needs attention.
- **Never interfere** with the voting process. Wait until the Precinct Inspector is available and then politely request a brief conversation.
- Always suggest that the Poll Worker manuals or Hotline be used to resolve any difference of opinion.
- If your interaction does not result in a resolution and a correction, please do one of two things: if the problem is one that will impact your right to vote, stand your ground politely and ask that a supervisor be called; if you are able to vote safely and successfully, do so and then contact **EIPCa** after you leave. It is still very important for the sake of other voters that a resolution be achieved, and EIPCa will attempt to make that happen.

Between now and November 6, **EIPCa** will be sending out weekly “mini-lessons” on the most important things for you to know about correct voting procedures, and how, when followed, they protect you and your vote. Then when you are in any polling place on Election Day, you will be prepared to keep your eyes and ears open and, as the cliché goes, if you “See Something, Say Something.” On Election Day the **EIPCa** website (www.eip-ca.com) will have instructions on how to do that.

Once you know the “rules” you will be able to help ensure that the “game” is played correctly. **Welcome to the team.**

Linda and the EIPCa Team

Linda Paine
President and Co-founder
Election Integrity Project California

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