



# GEORGIA DEMOCRATS

## Voter Protection Volunteer Roles

### **Poll Watchers**

Poll watchers are volunteers who observe in-person voting at polling locations. They are a critical resource and serve as our eyes and ears at the polls - and, they are the first line of defense against the many issues that can disrupt voting and disenfranchise voters. **Poll Watchers can be appointed only by DPG and/or the County Committee.**

As we scale up this year, Voter Protection will work hand-in-hand with County Committees to run a coordinated and statewide poll watcher operation. Voter Protection plans to do the heavy lifting on the key logistics - including recruiting, training, assigning, credentialing, and managing volunteers. But we welcome your support in identifying and recruiting prospective poll watchers, and we appreciate all input on prior voting issues that could help inform how we target priority percents. *\*If your County prefers to self-organize Poll Watchers the Voter Protection team will work with the County Committee to coordinate local efforts with he centralized, state-wide Poll Watcher program.*

### **Ballot Cure Team**

Ballot Cure volunteers engage with Democratic voters who don't quite make it through all of the twists & turns that Georgia requires for a mail ballot to actually count. Because Ballot Curing involves helping voters fix problems that they may not even be aware they are preventing their rejected mail ballots from being accepted, they're often happy to talk - once they understand the reason for the call or door knock - and grateful for our help.

We also contact voters whose ballots were rejected in the May Primary to help them avoid similar pitfalls and feel ready to navigate the Oct/Nov General Election voting maze with confidence and determination (also known as "Pre-Curing").

### **Vote Review/Ballot Duplication Panelists**

**Vote Review/Ballot Duplication Panels** (VRPs) are typically three-member panels (one D, one R, and one person appointed by the election supervisor). These panels adjudicate hand-marked paper ballots when there is a question as to how a voter intended to vote (for example, when there are stray marks or write-in vote). They work to determine whether the voter's intent is clear; if not, they do not count the vote, and if so, they count the vote the way the voter intended. Practices vary by county, but in some cases, county elections offices ask that the same volunteers be credentialed as both duplication panelists and vote review panelists.

**The County Committee appoints the Democratic member of each panel.** In counties where there is no County Committee, the State Party appoints the Democratic members of each panel. Depending on the number of ballots to be adjudicated, there may be multiple panels across multiple days. Voter Protection is offering resources to help counties that might need assistance, we'll reach out to the County Committee to discuss planning and coordinations.

### **Ballot Monitors**

Ballot Monitors are volunteers who observe as elections workers open, scan, and process ballots (typically, vote-by-mail ballots). They not only monitor the process - they also watch to ensure that other actors do not disrupt the processing of ballots, and they report back on key information like vote counts. **Ballot Monitors can be appointed by both the DPG and County Committees.**

**How we partner with you:** DPG plans to recruit, credential, and manage ballot monitoring volunteers in certain counties this year. In addition, we know that many County Committees already have volunteers who regularly serve as ballot monitors and who have become experts on these processes - and where that is the case, we want to ensure that we don't duplicate efforts. **We will coordinate with the County Committee so that we don't duplicated efforts!** We'll reach out later in the year to discuss planning and coordination.

### **Risk Limiting Audits - Audit Team (counters) and Monitors**

In 2023, the Georgia legislature passed [Senate Bill 129](#), which revised Georgia's audit provisions to require "precertification tabulation or risk-limiting audits." GA Code § 21-2-498. These risk limiting audits (RLAs) are conducted by hand after the election is certified by the county Boards of Elections but before certification by the Secretary of State.

This is a new Election Administration task in Georgia, to date the process has generally been that the Election Director contracts each of the country's political parties and ask for volunteers to serve on the Audit Team as ballot counters. Sometimes the Election Director will have Election staff perform the role if the political parties are unable to provide volunteers. RLAs must be "complete(d) ... in public view," meaning that any member of the public can observe the RLAs. There is no provision in Georgia law or State Election Board rules for credentialed partisan observers/monitors. Even so, we expect to organize volunteers to observe the RLA process as "monitors" in many counties as possible in

November 2024. **RLA monitors can be appointed by both the DPG and County Committees. We will coordinate so that we don't duplicate efforts!** We'll reach out later in the year to discuss planning and coordination.

Recount Monitors

We expect that the Presidential Election will result in a statewide recount - and we plan to prepare for his eventuality well before November, drawing on our collective experience in the last Presidential. **Recount Monitors can be appointed by both the DPG and County Committees. We will coordinate so that we don't duplicate efforts!** We'll reach out later in the year to discuss planning and coordination.

**Any questions, please contact DPG Voter Protection:  
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