

Members are reminded to review Department Memorandum 20-09 to refamiliarize themselves with Election Day enforcement and should contact supervisors or OGC with questions about that directive.

As a general reminder, members cannot arrest a person on the basis of trespassing at a polling place unless a representative in charge of the facility or election personnel asked that person to leave the premises. Election personnel in charge of the polling place have final authority over allowing a person to enter and vote.

Firearms are prohibited within 25 feet of any polling place. In the event members are called to a polling place regarding a person carrying a firearm, members should first contact election personnel to ascertain the facts of the situation and desired results. Members may lawfully ask a person to secure a firearm in a vehicle, and if a person refuses, members should contact the Illegal Firearms Squad on-call Detective or Supervisor for further information before detaining or arresting a person on this basis. Also, be reminded that certain persons (law enforcement, members of the federal judiciary, etc.) may carry open or concealed firearms into a polling place and not be in violation of the law.

Voter intimidation and compelling a person to vote or refrain from voting are law violations. Members should refer to DM 20-09 for specifics on these violations and discuss any related enforcement action with supervisors, the commanders listed below, or OGC. Members are also reminded to contact the on-call Domestic Violence Detective for further instructions regarding detaining and arrest procedures related to these violations.

Certain activities such as exit polling, distributing election literature, etc., within 25 feet of a polling building are law violations. Please refer to DM 20-09 for further details and contact a supervisor, the commanders listed below, or OGC with any questions. Be reminded that a person must be asked to remove them self from within 25 feet of a polling place before any enforcement action is taken.

To prevent the perception of “protecting a polling place,” on-duty members who are not voting should remain out-of-sight and at a distance of preferably 300 feet or more from any polling place. Working secondary employment at a polling place on Election Day is prohibited from one (1) hour before to one (1) hour after the polling place hours-of operation in any law enforcement or security capacity. However, members wishing to volunteer during a regular day off or approved exception time at a polling place may do so, but are prohibited from utilizing Department owned or issued equipment or uniforms, and from wearing any Department related insignia while volunteering.

Members may contact Captain Jason Cote (816) 768-2025 or Major Dan Haley (816)728-0713, prior to or on election day, if issues or questions arise and clarification or assistance is needed.

Finally, members are encouraged to become informed on the many important races and issues and vote as they choose. In Missouri, polling places are open from 0600 to 1900 on Election Day. Members who are registered and eligible to vote in Missouri are entitled by law to sufficient time to vote. Members should work with their supervisors if they are concerned they will not have the opportunity to vote. Questions regarding time to vote should be directed to the Human Resources Division. Additional information on elections in Missouri can be found at the following websites:

[Kansas City Elections Board \(Kansas City within Jackson County\)](#)  
[Jackson County Elections Board](#)  
[Platte County Elections Board](#)  
[Clay County Board of Election Commissioners](#)

Under Missouri law and Department policy, members have the right to vote as they choose and express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates so long as such expression does not violate other statutes, rules, or policies of the Department. Members with questions about permissible political activity should review [Personnel Policy 201-12, pages 8-10](#).

