



**Office of Secretary of the State**

State of Connecticut

165 Capitol Ave, P.O. Box 150470, Hartford, CT 06115-0470

**Denise W. Merrill**  
Secretary of the State

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Deputy Secretary of the State

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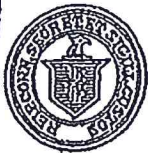
To: Media Outlets  
From: Gabe Rosenberg, General Counsel  
Date: October 2, 2020  
Re: Media Access to Polling Places

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To Whom It May Concern:

Attached you will find a letter from the Office of the Secretary of the State dated August 29, 2000 regarding the ability for the media to have access to polling places during the hours of voting in Connecticut. I have also attached a copy of Connecticut General Statutes §9-236 for your information.

If you have additional questions, please call our office at 860-509-6100.



Office of Secretary of the State  
 State of Connecticut  
 30 Trinity Street, P.O. Box 150470, Hartford, CT 06115-0470

*✓ Restricted Area - Exit Polls  
 - Mass Mail*

Susan Bysiewicz  
 Secretary of the State  
 Marla M Greenslade  
 Deputy Secretary of the State

August 29, 2000

Apolonia Rehill  
 Operations Legal Coordinator  
 Voter News Service  
 225 West 34th Street  
 Suite 310  
 New York NY 10122

Dear Ms. Rehill:

In response to your letter dated August 24, 2000, exit polling is allowed in the State of Connecticut.

Representatives of the news media may conduct exit polls of voters, either inside or outside the 75-foot limit, and if they wish, inside the polling place building. However, polls may not be conducted in the room where voting is taking place. News media personnel may enter the voting room to observe the election (which includes taking photographs or video-taping), but any exit polling of voters must be done outside of such room and in a manner which does not disrupt the voting process or influence any voters prior to voting. Please note that Connecticut General Statute §9-236 requires that "...any such [news media] representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator."

I have enclosed a copy of Connecticut General Statute §9-236 for your perusal. Please contact us at (860) 509-6100 if you have questions regarding this statute.

Very truly yours,  
 SUSAN BYSIEWICZ  
 Secretary of the State

By   
 Michael T. Kozik  
 Staff Attorney

MTK/cj  
 Enclosure (C.G.S. §9-236)  
 (Enclosures include exit poll p. 4)

**Sec. 9-236. Activities prohibited in and near polling place; distance markers; entry restricted; exceptions.** (a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit (1) parent-teacher associations or parent-teacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in any school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall not be held in the room in which the election booths are located, (2) the registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or (3) the registrars of voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than the room in which the election booths are located. The registrars may jointly impose such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting. The moderator shall evict any person who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting.

(b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the seventy-five-foot distance from such entrance. Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright color and shall bear the figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may provide the markers required by the provisions of this subsection in effect prior to October 1, 1983, except that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction with an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an election in the voting district, and

shall cause to be placed by a police officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets within that distance.

(c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing his or her official duties, or (4) party checkers under section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.

(d) Any person who violates any provision of this section or, while the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance marker, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

[https://cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_146.htm#sec\\_9-236](https://cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_146.htm#sec_9-236)