

Top Ten Election Day Mistakes by Poll Workers

1. Poll workers over-assisting: assisting voters when unsolicited.
Solution: Highlight accessibility issues in your training sessions.
2. Photo ID: Adding “current address” to the list of requirements for an ID to be valid for voting purposes.
Solution: Include Indiana Voter Information Guides in precinct kits—tape it to the poll clerk table for voters and poll workers as a safeguard.
3. Set-up: Overall polling place set up—voting machines visible to other voters or to the poll worker table.
Solution: Use diagrams and encourage poll workers to take ownership in their precinct.
4. Accessibility: Voting machines not turned on, not enough room around the machines, no signs showing accessible route.
Solution: Highlight accessibility issues in your training sessions.
5. Electioneering and credentials standards
Solution: Highlight these issues at your training sessions.
6. Photo ID: Incorrectly administering the expiration date requirement for photo ID—the ID does NOT have to be current.
Solution: Administer the Photo ID Activity in your training sessions.
7. Over-thinking the requirements for a change of name.
Solution: Address name changes in your training sessions
8. Name not on poll book—voter moved and didn’t update registration.
Solution: Flow chart and failsafe step by step in Election Day Handbook
9. Provisional Ballots: Not offering provisional ballots—turning people away.
Solution: Provide your poll workers with a provisional ballot guide and always make sure they use the Election Day Handbook.
10. Not showing up—leaving mid-day
Solution: Clearly set expectations for attendance and consider offering half-day shifts.