

On the day of an election, primary, or referendum, the law prohibits solicitation or advertisement on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate or ballot question within a restricted area beginning 75-feet from any outside entrance used as an entry to the polling place. This is called “electioneering” or “campaigning.” The law states that no person shall loiter, peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a 75-foot radius from any such outside entrance, or in any corridor leading from the outside entrance to the polling place, or in any room opening upon any such corridor.

Campaign materials may not be displayed within the polling place or the restricted area, and electors must be asked to remove such materials from sight. Persons may not bring automobiles displaying candidate signs within the 75-foot restricted area, or wear campaign buttons or politically charged apparel. This includes items of apparel which identify with a particular political party (for example elephants or donkeys on clothing or jewelry). Most newspapers and some magazines will have election related articles, so these are not permitted within the 75-foot restricted area. Additionally, discussion about candidates, ballot questions or the election is considered electioneering within the restricted area.

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.