

Role Play Script – General Election

Party Affiliation has no effect in a General Election.

Moderator instructions: Introduce a question or variation at any point.

Example: “What if the person is blind?” “What if the person is not registered?”

#1

Voter, Greeter, Poll Book Clerk, Issuing Clerk

ACT I – The Greeter

Voter - I don't know if I'm in the right polling place

Greeter – Let's check the map and see. What's your address?

Voter- 2727 N. Klondike

Greeter- Here you are, this is your poll.

Voter- I used to vote at the elementary school. Why has my poll changed?

Greeter- Redistricting is required by Federal law every 10 years and some precinct lines had to be adjusted to balance the size of precincts and legislative districts so they are about the same size. Are you registered?

Voter- I am registered

Greeter – Do you have your photo ID?

Voter – Yes

Greeter – I'm sure you know how to mark a ballot but let me demonstrate so your votes will be counted correctly. If you make a mistake please don't erase or cross out, just ask for a new ballot.

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Voter- How do I vote for a write-in candidate?

Greeter- Mark the position in front of the blank line and write the name of a certified write-in on the line.

Voter – What do you think about Big Jake for Sherriff; I’m going to write him in.

Greeter – I can’t discuss that with you in the polling place, Big Jake has filed a declaration of candidacy and is a certified write-in, it’s your choice in the voting booth.

Voter- Ok, I understand.

Greeter – Thank you. You can proceed to the Poll Book Clerk

ACT II – The Poll Book Clerk

Poll Book Clerk – Hello, please state your name and address

Voter- Jerry Smiley, 2727 Klondike

PBC – Here you are in the Poll Book. May I see you photo ID please? Thank you, pretty good picture.

Voter- I have not moved but my license is expired.

PBC – The address is the same on the license and matches the address in the poll book and the picture works for ID, that’s you. You are entitled to vote the general election ballot and school levy ballot. You may proceed to the Issuing Clerk.

ACT III – The Issuing Clerk

Issuing Clerk – Hello. First I want to confirm with the Poll Book Clerk that you are to receive the general election ballot and school levy ballot. Is that correct?

Voter- Yes

PBC- That is correct.

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Issuing Clerk – I’ll stamp your ballots with the official ballot stamp. Please follow the instructions for marking your ballot. If you make a mistake please do not erase or mark out, just ask us for a new ballot...

Voter- Oh excuse me, my cell phone is going off... it’s my kid, you know...

Issuing Clerk – Cell phones should not be used in the polls, can the call wait or would you like to take the call outside?

Voter – Oh, he just hung up.

Issuing Clerk – I know how that is... Here are your ballots, you can vote in the empty booth there, and please don’t tear or fold your ballot. When you have finished, put your ballot in the secrecy sleeve and take your ballot to the Receiving Clerk. You may deposit the ballot yourself or the clerk will assist you if you choose.

END #1

#2

Voter, Greeter, Election Day Registration Clerk, Poll Book Clerk, Issuing Clerk

Note: New registrants must choose a party affiliation or remain “Unaffiliated” when they fill out a new voter registration card. Their party affiliation will have no effect for the General Election.

ACT I – The Greeter

Greeter – Good morning. Is this your polling place?

Voter- Yes I checked it online at idahovotes.gov on my phone.

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Greeter – I imagine you are registered and have your photo ID.

Voter – I have my driver’s license but I have moved and need to register. I’ve also gotten married and changed my name.... and just turned 18...

Greeter – OK. This is your first time voting. To mark the ballot we use in this county....

(Explain how to mark the ballot in your county and how to vote for a write-in candidate).

Now you can go to the Election Day Registration Clerk and we’ll get you registered.

ACT II – Election Day Registration Clerk

Election Day Registration Clerk– Morning, so you need to register to vote. First, is this your precinct?

Voter – Yes for my new address, I checked online.

EDRC- Let’s make sure. What is your name and address?

Voter – My maiden name is Veronica Smith, 65 Honeymoon Lane, Apartment 3B. My new name is on my license but the address is wrong.

EDRC – I see you’re hyphenating your name and your husband’s name... Veronica Smith-Smith. Your picture on the license works for photo ID. Do you have any document that would verify your new address in the precinct?

Voter - I have our phone bill, does that work?

EDRC- Let’s see, yes, here’s your address on Honeymoon Lane and your signature Veronica Smith-Smith. This is our registration card, read all the instructions. Please notice the perjury warnings. Use this black pen and write clearly. Be sure to fill out all 10 Boxes, sign and date and check the card when you have finished. OK? I can answer any question you may have about the 10 Boxes.

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Voter – Thank you. I do have a question, my Dad is 102 and has trouble filling out cards, can I help him if he wants to register?

EDRC – Your Dad can have anyone he wishes to assist him.

Voter – My new name goes in Box 1, my driver’s license number goes in Box 2 Dad doesn’t drive but he could use his social security number, Box 3, I am a Citizen, I am 18... Box 4 my date of birth, I am female and I have lived there.... just 31 days.

EDRC – That’s fine. The law requires you to be a resident of the state and county for 30 days

Voter - Do you need my phone number...? I don’t like to give it out.

EDRC- It’s optional but it can be helpful to the county clerk if they might need to ask you about your registration or if a question comes up.

Voter- OK. Box 5 my residence address 65 Honeymoon Lane, Apartment 3B, Box 6 my mailing address is the same and I have not registered before... Box 7... party affiliation... what does that mean?

EDRC – State law requires voters to register with a party or remain unaffiliated with a political party. Your party affiliation will not effect the General Election but will apply to the next Primary election.

Voter – What if I don’t want to affiliate with a party?

EDRC – That is your choice. You may remain an unaffiliated voter.

Voter – OK. I’ll mark Unaffiliated in Box 7. Box 8... I check the Box and write my previous name Veronica Smith. Box 9.... legal disqualifications, I check no... but I do have a question. Mr. Smith my husband... well he has had some legal problems but he has completed his parole. Can he vote?

EDRC – If Mr. Smith has been convicted of a felony, his voting rights are restored automatically in Idaho when he has completed his sentence including probation and parole.

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Voter- OK, that’s good news. Ok, I see the perjury warning and I sign my new names and date the card. Here you go...

EDRC – Please check the card again and make sure all 10 Boxes are complete.

Voter – All 10 Boxes are complete.

EDRC- Let me check too. Looks good. And I have seen your photo and your phone bill proving residence in the state and county. Now I will stamp your card with the “Residence Verified” stamp here in the blank space at the bottom of the card ... being careful not to cover any of your information. I will fill in the “Official Information” Box as directed by my clerk and you are ready to go. Take your card to the poll book clerk and thank you for registering today.

ACT III – The Poll Book Clerk

Poll Book Clerk – Hello, state your name and address please

Voter- Veronica Smith-Smith, 65 Honeymoon Lane, Apartment 3B

Poll Book Clerk - May I see your ID? Good picture.

Voter - Thanks

PBC – I see you registered today, I’m checking your form. It is stamped “Residence Verified” and your driver’s license number is in Box 2, date of birth in Box 4.... Box 9... no legal disqualification and your signature in Box 10. I will add your name to the Poll Book and you can sign your name. I will write “Election Day Registration” in the remarks column. You are eligible to vote the General Election ballot. You may proceed to the issuing clerk.

ACT IV – The Issuing Clerk

Issuing Clerk – Hello. Thank you for registering on Election Day. I want to confirm with the Poll Book Clerk that you are eligible to vote the General Election ballot. Is that correct?

Voter- Yes, I think so.

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PBC- That is correct.

Voter – But my neighbor was talking about voting for the school bond. Why don't I get to vote on the bond too?

Issuing Clerk – Your residence address is outside the school district boundaries. Your neighbor must live within the school district boundary. I will stamp your ballot with the official ballot stamp. Follow the instructions for marking your ballot. If you make a mistake do not erase, just ask us for a new ballot and you will be issued a replacement ballot.

Voter – Thank you

Issuing Clerk – You can vote in the empty booth there, and please don't tear or fold your ballot. When you have finished place your ballot in the secrecy sleeve and take your ballot to the receiving clerk. You may deposit the ballots yourself or the clerk will assist you if you choose. Thank you for voting today.

END #2

#3

Voter, Greeter

Greeter – Good Morning. Is this your polling place?

Voter – I don't know

Greeter – What's your address? We'll look you up on the precinct map.

Voter – 678 Happy Camper Highway.

Greeter – Oh, I'm sorry you are in the wrong precinct, here's the boundary line and here's 678 Happy Camper Highway. You vote at the Fire Station.

Voter – Oh great, that's been changed. Now I have to drive all the way over there and I have a dentist appointment for my toothache. You people could let us folks know when you make changes.

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Greeter – Do you know about our website site idahovotes.gov? You can look up your poll there or just call the county clerk.

Voter – A lot of good that does me now. I got to get to the dentist. I'll vote tonight.

Greeter – I 'm sorry for the inconvenience. Sorry about your tooth.

#4

Affidavit Example

Voter, Greeter, Poll Book Clerk, Issuing Clerk

Make 3x5 cards with voter profiles. Let poll workers think for themselves and demonstrate what they have and have not learned. Let poll workers think for themselves and demonstrate what they have and have not learned. Interject questions or variations at any time. Affidavit example:

VOTER PROFILE #4

Make up a name
Correct Poll -Yes
Registered - Yes
Has ID but left it a home
Wants to vote for levy
Outside boundary of district

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Blank Voter Profile Card

VOTER PROFILE

Make up a name
Correct Poll: Y/N
Registered: Y/N
Unaffiliated: Y/N
Has ID but _____
Wants to vote the _____ ballot
Wants to affiliate Y/N
Choose Party: _____
Attitude: _____

“You’re the Voter Reality Show”

On a 3x5 card ask a few experienced poll workers to describe actual voters they have assisted. Shuffle cards. Ask poll workers to solve the voter’s problems by listening carefully, explaining and thanking the voter. For example:

VOTER REALITY SHOW

Make up a name: Bettie Wont
Correct Poll: Yes
Registered: Yes
Unaffiliated: No, Republican
ID: Yes
Wants to return her marked absentee ballot

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VOTER REALITY SHOW

Make up a name: Ivan La Fog
Correct Poll: No
Registered: No
Unaffiliated: YES
ID: Concealed weapons permit
Wants to vote the Independent ballot
A little too interested in the poll worker

Bonus Questions

What party can I vote in November?

What if a voter wants to change their affiliation on Election Day?

Can I change party after Election Day?

Does my affiliation become public record? Who can get it?

Why is there no President on my ballot?

Why are there no Candidates on my ballot?

How come my neighbor gets to vote in the school election and I don't?

I can't see the ballot. How do I vote?

Can you bring a ballot to my car?

A female voter has a hyphenated last name. She is now divorced and has dropped the hyphenated part of her name. Does she need to re-register?

A voter has handed me a voter registration card but it is not stamped "Residence Verified". Can I accept the card?

Role Play Script – General Election

I forgot to have a voter sign the poll book and the voter has left the polling place. What do I do?

I gave a voter a ballot for a taxing district and then realized the voter is not eligible to vote in that taxing district election. What do I do if the voter is still in the polling place? What do I do if they have already left the Polling Place?

If a voter lives in a school district, but owns property in another district, where do they vote?

Poll Book Clerk

What do I do if the voter registration card is not completely filled out?

What do I do if the voter's name in the poll book has changed?

What do I do if the voter's address in the poll book has changed?

What do I do if a voter has voted absentee, but the ballots stays at the courthouse?

What do I do if a voter has voted absentee and the county clerk brings their ballot to polls?

What do I do if a voter brings me their absentee ballot?

What do I do if a voter does not have approved photo identification?

What do I do if a voter feels their concealed weapons photo identification is one of the approved photo identifications?

What do I do with the signed personal identification affidavits?

What do I do if a voter needs to curbside vote?

Issuing Clerk

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What do I say if a voter asks me about the ballot question or a candidate on the ballot?

Can I stamp several ballots in advance before issuing them?

What do I do if I don't have an official ballot stamp?

What do I need to tell the voter when I hand them their ballot?

What do I do if I accidentally tear a ballot when trying to separate it from the ballot stub?

What do I do if a voter makes a mistake on their ballot and brings it back to me?

What do I do with the ballot if there isn't enough voting booths available for the next voter?

Resource

The Frequently Asked Questions in the “Quick Reference” guide and in the Procedural Manuals for each position are very helpful during training as are the questions in the front of the Chief Judge’s Procedural Manual.

Printable color charts and short videos of job duties for each clerk are available of the Clerk’s resource website.

Ask your poll workers for questions and situations they have had to deal with in the past and add to this list. The discussion can be a valuable teaching tool.