

TELLERS GUIDE - IN AND AROUND THE POLLING PLACES

Tellers work for political parties. They stand outside polling stations or polling places and record the electoral number of voters who have voted. By identifying electors who have not voted and relaying this information to the party, tellers play a vital and important role in elections. Parties may then contact the voters who have not yet been to vote during election day and persuade them to vote, which may help to increase turnout.

There should be no more than one teller at a polling station for each candidate or political party at any time. Where a polling place contains more than one polling station with separate entrances, it may be appropriate for there to be tellers at each entrance, but no more than one per candidate or party.

Tellers have no legal status and voters have the right to refuse to give them any information.

Tellers must:

- (a) Always remain outside the polling station/place
- (b) Only enter the polling station to cast their own vote, or vote as a proxy or to accompany a voter with disabilities
- (c) Always comply with the instructions of the Returning Officer and Presiding Officer

Tellers must not:

- (a) Be able to see or hear what is happening inside the polling station
- (b) Impede, obstruct or intimidate voters on their way in or out of the polling station
- (c) **Demand** any information relating to a voter's electoral number, name or address.
- (d) Ask voters to re-enter the polling station to ascertain their electoral number
- (e) Have discussions with voters that may give rise to allegations of undue influence (e.g. voting intentions, party affiliations, party campaigns)
- (f) Display any campaign material in support of, or against any particular political party or individual candidate other than a rosette.

Tellers may:

- (a) Approach voters for information as they enter or leave the polling station/place
- (b) Display a coloured rosette displaying the name of the candidate and/or a registered political party. While the rosette must not be oversized, it may carry a registered party description/emblem.

Please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance "Tellers in and Around Polling Places", available from www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/candidates2007.cfm

Prepared by the
Returning Officer