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Watchers

Each candidate for nomination or election at any election may appoint two watchers in each election district where that candidate is on the ballot. Each political party and political body which has nominated candidates may appoint three watchers at any general, municipal or special election in each district where a candidate of such party or body is on the ballot. Each watcher shall be provided with a certificate from the County Board of Elections stating his name and the name of the candidate, party, or political body he represents.

Act 44 of 2002, Section 417 states that “All watchers so appointed shall serve in only one district and must be qualified registered electors of the COUNTY in which the district where they are authorized to act is located. When the watcher is not serving in the election district for which the watcher was appointed, the watcher can serve in any other election district in the county in which the watcher is a qualified registered elector: It shall not be a requirement that a watcher be a resident of the election district for which the watcher is appointed.”
Only one watcher for each candidate at a primary, or for each party or political body at an general, municipal, or special election, can remain in the polling place at any one time prior to the opening of the polls, throughout the day until the time that the counting of votes is complete and the district register is locked and sealed.

After the polls close and during the canvassing of the votes, all watchers may be in the polling place, but outside enclosed space.

Every person who acts in the capacity of a watcher must upon request show his or her certificate. Watchers shall be permitted to keep a list of voters and shall be entitled to challenge any person making application to vote to require proof of his qualifications.

25 P.S. As amended §2687
1937, P.L. 1333 As amended §417

Attachment: Request for Watcher Form