WATCHER CERTIFICATE

Election Law, Sections §8-500 & §9-209(5)
FOR USE DURING EARLY VOTING, ON ELECTION DAY OR DURING BOE REVIEW OF BALLOT ENVELOPES

Date: _____

Appointing authority:_____
(Insert name of political party or committee/independent body/candidate here)

Name of person appointed as watcher: _____

Poll site where watcher is to appear: _____
(Insert town/village/city and election district/Assembly District numbers here)

Signature of Appointing Authority Individual: _____

Print name of Appointing Authority Individual: _____

Title of Appointing Authority Individual: _____

GUIDELINES

- At a general, special, town or village election, watchers shall be appointed by the chair or other officer of any party committee, independent body whose candidates are upon the ballot, or political committee supporting or opposing a ballot proposal.
- At a primary election, watchers shall be appointed by the chair or other officer of any party committee or any candidate on the ballot.
- Each watcher must be a qualified voter of the city or county in which he or she is to serve, with one exception. A qualified voter in New York State who is licensed to practice law may be a watcher at any polling place.
- Watcher certificates must be delivered to an inspector at the election district.
- Not more than three watchers for any appointing authority may be appointed to serve at the same election district at the same time.
- Watchers may be present at the polling place at least fifteen minutes before the unlocking and examinations of any voting machine or ballot box at the opening of the polls, until after the signing of the inspectors' returns and proclamation of the result.
- Not more than one watcher for any appointing authority may be within the guard rail at any one time.
- No person shall be appointed or act as a watcher who is a candidate for any public office to be voted for by the voters of the election district in the same election in which the watcher is to serve.

(Sample prepared by the State Board of Elections)
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