

# **Dealing with Problems On Election Day**

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## **Overview**

1. The Returning Officer in conjunction with West Midlands Police, has produced this brief guide to assist parties, candidates and individuals on how and where to report problems encountered on election day.

## **Conduct at Polling Stations**

1. It is the legal responsibility of the Presiding Officer to maintain order at the polling station. The Presiding Officer will also monitor the activities of Tellers outside polling places to ensure that they do not interfere with the voting process.
2. Any concerns about conduct at a polling station should therefore be directed initially to the Presiding Officer who will attempt to resolve the matter. The Presiding Officer has instructions to record any incidents.
3. If necessary the Presiding Officer can seek additional assistance from the Elections Office or in more serious circumstances can contact the police on 999.
4. In addition any concerns can be reported by candidates or agents to the Elections office on 0121 303 2583, or by email to [candidates@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:candidates@birmingham.gov.uk).
5. Where appropriate the Elections office will instruct the Polling Station Inspector to attend the polling station and offer assistance to the Presiding Officer.

## **Conduct Outside Polling stations**

1. Candidates and parties are reminded of the local agreement in Birmingham in which it has been agreed between the main parties that;
  - Up to 2 activists can be in the vicinity of each entrance to land/property containing the polling station (i.e. at each gate leading from the public foot path to say a school yard)
  - No other activities should take place within an area approximately 20 metres from a polling stations (common sense prevailing on distance)

2. All parties are asked to adhere to this agreement regardless of whether they have signed up to it.
3. Wherever possible if an incident occurs regarding the conduct of party activists, party agents are encouraged to contact each other in an attempt to resolve any issues.
4. If not the incident can be reported to the Elections Office who will arrange for its Polling Station Inspector to visit the polling station in order to try and resolve any problems.
5. Where the Elections office receives an incident report it will deal with it as per the flow chart at *appendix 1*.
6. Alternatively in a non-emergency, this can be reported to West Midlands Police on 101.
7. If it is urgent then any incident should be reported to the police on 999

## Appendix 1.

