

ORDINANCE NO. 1197

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, NEBRASKA RELATING TO EXIT POLLS AND POLL WATCHERS; TO AMEND SPRINGFIELD MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1-724; TO HARMONIZE WITH STATE LAW; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. That Chapter 1, Article 7, Section 1-724 of the Springfield Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

§1-724 ELECTIONS; EXIT POLLS; POLL WATCHERS.

(A) No person shall conduct an exit poll, a public opinion poll, or any other interview with voters on election day seeking to determine voter preference within 20 feet of the entrance of any polling place or, if inside the polling place or building, within 100 feet of any voting booth.

(B) (1) No poll watcher shall interfere with any voter in the preparation or casting of such voter's ballot or prevent any election worker from performing the worker's duties.

(2) A poll watcher shall not provide assistance to a voter as described in Neb. RS 32-918 unless selected by the voter to provide assistance as provided in Neb. RS 32-918.

(3) A poll watcher shall not do any electioneering or disseminate any information or materials advertising or advocating for or against any ballot measure while engaged in observing at a polling place.


(4) A poll watcher shall maintain a distance of at least eight feet from the sign-in table, the sign-in register, the polling booths, the ballot box, and any ballots which have not been cast, except that if the polling place is not large enough for a distance of eight feet, the judge of election shall post a notice of the minimum distance the poll watcher must maintain from the sign-in table, the sign-in register, the polling booths, the ballot box, and any ballots which have not been cast. The posted notice shall be clearly visible to the voters and shall be posted prior to the opening of the polls on election day. The minimum distance shall not be determined to exclude a poll watcher from being in the polling place.

(5) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor. (Neb. RS 32-1525)

Section 2. Any other ordinance or code section passed and approved prior to passage, approval, and publication or posting of this ordinance and in conflict with its provisions is repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval, and publication or posting as required by law.

Passed and approved this 17th day of June 2025.

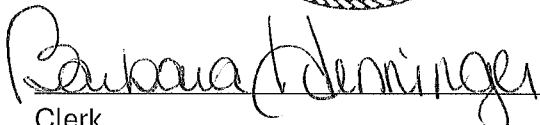


Mayor

(SEAL)



Attest:



Clerk