

USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY POLL OFFICIALS

Polling places allow the voters to make the choices for their representative government. The integrity of the election process must be sufficient enough to withstand a variety of fraudulent behaviors, including ones that are merely perceived. The process must be transparent enough that voters and candidates alike know results are an accurate reflection of their choices.

Electronic devices easily connect to wireless internet and allow a constant stream of communication and information. Voters, candidates, and/or poll watchers might perceive that information is being transmitted to campaigns regarding who's voted, how many voted, or that the internet is being used to manipulate election results. It is for this reason that all personal electronic devices as listed below are prohibited at all polling locations.

Personal devices that are not allowed include, but are not limited to, electronic entertainment devices such as hand-held games, laptops, Kindle or Nook type devices, tablets, iPods, and radios.

Poll officials may have cell phones and smart phones but they cannot be used for personal reasons such as making or receiving calls, texting, emailing or accessing the internet within the confines of the room in which voting is taking place. Phones must be on silent or vibrate and poll officials must always leave their assigned station to use the phones for personal reasons. A safe precaution would be to ensure that poll officials are at least 25 feet away from any voter standing in line outside the confines of the room in which polling is taking place.

Poll Managers and Area Managers are allowed to have and use a cell phone or smart phone for election related business within the confines of the room in which voting is taking place.

The only restriction regarding paper reading materials is to ensure that no articles and/or photographs appear with any candidates, political party/body information, or special election questions and/or issues that appear on the ballot.

APPROVED: GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2012



JOAN H. ZELLNER, CHAIR