
Media attendance at a voting place	City Clerk's Office – Toronto Elections
	Policy No.: POL-CERT-001

1. Policy

To maintain the privacy and secrecy of the vote, the City Clerk prohibits media from entering, filming or photographing inside a voting place without prior approval from the City Clerk.

2. Application

This policy applies to election officials designated by the City Clerk, electors and all media at a voting place during Toronto municipal elections and/or by-elections. Any existing policies that apply to the media also apply at the voting place.

3. Authority/Legislative reference(s)

Section 12 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 states that the City Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation and that, in their opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election.

4. Implementation

- 4.1. Electors are entitled to privacy when voting and their privacy must be respected.
- 4.2. Prior to the advance vote and voting day, media will be advised that if they wish to film or photograph at the voting place, they must make prior arrangements with the City Clerk. Requests will be coordinated by staff from the City of Toronto's Strategic Public & Employee Communications Division and Toronto Elections.
- 4.3. If the media arrives at a voting place unexpectedly, a designated election official shall notify the ward centre immediately and follow instructions from the ward centre. The designated election official reserves the right to deny entry until they receive approval from the ward centre.

- 4.4. If permission is granted from the City Clerk, media may film or photograph from the doorway of the voting place but only with the permission of the occupants of the voting place.
- 4.5. The designated election official shall ensure that voting place staff, electors and other individuals in the voting place have agreed to be filmed or photographed and will advise the media of this agreement.
- 4.6. While the voting place boundary covers the entire property, permission to interview, film or photograph is generally not required if the media wish to do so outside the voting place boundaries.

5. Related Policies/Procedures/Guidelines/Information

City Clerk's policy on the *Use of electronic communication and photographic devices at a voting place* and City Clerk's policy on *Voting place boundaries*.

Date Approved: June 2022