

DE 86-05 - April 30, 1986

**POLL WATCHERS; POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER
GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS; AUTHORIZATION**

To: Honorable Betty Carter, Supervisor of Elections, Orange County, One North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801

Prepared by: Division of Elections

This is in response to your request for an opinion pursuant to Section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, on whether Section 101.131, Florida statutes, authorizes political committees and other groups and organizations that have properly identified their scope of interest to include a specific issue in an election to appoint watchers to the polls for that election.

Your question is answered in the affirmative.

In DE 81-02, issued May 11, 1981, this office, in reliance upon a previous and long-standing position of the Attorney General (given tacit approval in AGO 074-284, September 19, 1974), concluded that poll watchers for political committees and other groups and organizations are authorized if they comply with the standards established for poll watchers of candidates and political parties and are officially designated by the appropriate authority within the prescribed time prior to the election.

The purpose for having poll watchers is to see that elections are conducted properly and in fairness for each candidate and issue on the ballot. It is my opinion that this purpose is well served by allowing political committees and other groups and organizations to have poll watchers under the circumstances set out herein.