

We support Senate Bill 21 to reduce the mandatory number of poll workers per precinct for several reasons. First, given the use of electronic poll books, precincts no longer determine how a polling place operates. In the past voters had to report to a specific table so they could sign a specific paper poll book for their precinct. With electronic poll books, voters can sign in to vote at any check in table in the polling place. Second, given the much faster check in rate using electronic poll books, fewer check in tables are needed to process voters. Third, given the predominate use of voting machines and not paper ballots, once the voter receives their permission to vote card or receipt at check in, they can serve themselves by using any voting machine.

Here in Marion County, we have both statistical and anecdotal data to support using less poll workers. We have demonstrated that only about 1/2 of the check in tables are needed when using electronic poll books over old paper books that were precinct specific. We have had poll workers complain they are bored based on staffing at the current required levels - proof positive that they are not needed in the polling place. In the future, we are planning on a poll worker to precinct ratio of roughly 2.5. This slight increase over a 2.0 ratio is so that workers can have ample time for breaks and meals.

---