



Guidelines for Media Coverage on Election Day
Parliamentary General Election
September 3, 2020

The Electoral Commission of Jamaica, being mindful of Section 99 of the Representation of the People Act (ROPA) which speaks to the Secrecy of the Vote, has sought to balance the interests of all parties by allowing coverage of the poll proceedings, while guaranteeing the third principle of universal adult suffrage - **the secrecy of the vote**.

At The Polling Station

Subject to the following guidelines, limited access is granted to the media at the polling station:

1. Members of the media i.e. journalists, reporters, photographers, videographers and crew members will be allowed to enter polling locations (premises) on Election Day, under the supervision of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) Election Day Supervisor. Request must be made by media entities in writing to the Director of Elections prior to Election Day for permission to establish themselves on the polling location (premises) for live broadcast.
2. All media personnel must have prominently displayed on his/her person, identification issued by the media house to which he/she is employed. Press identification cards must bear the name of the reporter, a photograph and the media house to which he/she is associated.

3. **Only** one (1) videographer or photographer from each media entity will be allowed to enter polling stations, with the permission of the Election Day Supervisor.
4. Permission to enter a polling station must be sought from the EOJ Supervisor responsible for the polling station. This permission is usually granted under normal circumstances. (Section 41 of the ROPA speaks to the persons who should be present in the polling station).
5. If permission is granted, camera crew may NOT capture images of the voter as he/she records his/her vote. (If there is a compelling need to take a photo of how the poll is being conducted, it has to be in such a manner so as not to compromise the privacy and secrecy of any voter).
6. The media is not permitted to set up any equipment inside the polling station.
7. A designated area will be identified at the polling location to facilitate interviews of candidates by reporters, supervised by the EOJ Election Day Supervisor.
8. Supervisors or other staff members are not authorized to speak to the media.

N.B. The media should not enquire any information from the Election Day staff such as the number of votes cast, number of voters on the Voters' List nor how many persons have voted so far. This information will be disseminated as necessary by the Election Centre. The media may also request this information from the Returning Officer for the constituency.

Election Results Transmission

The Electoral Commission of Jamaica will be implementing measures to facilitate media coverage of polling activities and results on Election Day.

Members of the media will be facilitated at the Results Centre, Electoral Commission of Jamaica, 16 Red Hills Road. After the close of poll, preliminary results coming in from the polling stations will be transmitted electronically to the Results Centre through the Elections Information Management System (EIMS) and will be displayed for the full viewing.

The Election Centre will be hosted at the Electoral Commission of Jamaica's Red Hills Road location. The Election Centre will be the hub for issuing authentic updates on polling activities. Requests for interviews with key election personnel will be accommodated at this location.

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