



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

EN BANC

**GUIDELINES ON MEDIA
ACCESS TO POLLING
PLACES, VOTING
CENTERS, AND
CANVASSING CENTERS
IN CONNECTION WITH
THE MAY 12, 2025
NATIONAL AND LOCAL
ELECTIONS**

GARCIA, George Erwin M.	Chairman
FEROLINO, Aimee P.	Commissioner
BULAY, Rey E.	Commissioner
MACEDA, Jr., Ernesto Ferdinand P.	Commissioner
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TANGARO-CASINGAL, Maria Norina S.	Commissioner
PIPO, Noli R.	Commissioner

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Promulgated: March 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 11122

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Comelec Resolution No. 11062¹ allows the duly accredited media personnel access to polling places, voting centers, canvassing centers, among others, subject to reasonable regulations and house rules to ensure proper order and decorum;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (e) of Comelec Resolution No. 11076² directs the Electoral Board (EB) to maintain order within the polling place and its premises and to keep an open and unobstructed access thereto;

WHEREAS, Section 11 (d) of Comelec Resolution No. 11076 authorizes the Department of Education Supervising Official (DESO) to supervise the crowd management at the ingress and egress areas of the voting centers;

WHEREAS, Section 24 of Comelec Resolution No. 11102³ states that the Board of Canvassers (BOC) shall have the full authority to maintain orderliness within including its premises and enforce obedience to its lawful orders;

¹ Guidelines For Mass Media Accreditation For The: 1) October 1-8, 2024 Filing Of Certificates Of Candidacy, And 2) May 12, 2025 National, Local, And BARMM Parliamentary Elections

² General Instructions For The Electoral Boards On The Process Of Voting, Counting, & Transmission Of Election Results For The 12 May 2025 National, Local, & Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections

³ General Instructions On The Constitution, Composition And Appointment Of The Board Of Canvassers (BOC); Consolidation / Canvass; And Transmission Of Votes In Connection With The May 12, 2025 National And Local Elections (NLE), And Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Parliamentary Elections

WHEREAS, there is a need to issue reasonable regulations and house rules to ensure order inside the polling places, voting centers, and canvassing centers while recognizing media access;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, the COMELEC has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following guidelines:

SECTION 1. Coverage. – These guidelines shall cover the rights, responsibilities, and limitations of access for duly accredited media personnel covering official election-related activities during election day. It also outlines the role of the EB, the DESO, and the BOC in recognizing and facilitating media access.

SECTION 2. General Access Rights. – Subject to space limitations and such conditions as may be necessary for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, privileged information and integrity of the elections, duly accredited media personnel shall be granted access to polling places, voting centers, and canvassing centers on election day.

SECTION 3. Role of the EB, DESO, and BOC in Recognizing Media Access. – The EB, DESO, and BOC play a crucial role in recognizing and facilitating the access granted to duly accredited media personnel. Their responsibilities include:

- a. Checking and validating the COMELEC-issued media identification card (ID) before allowing entry;
- b. Ensuring that the COMELEC-issued media ID is worn prominently and corresponds to the person using it;
- c. Ensuring media personnel remain in designated areas to prevent interference with election proceedings;
- d. Monitoring and preventing unauthorized recording, especially inside the polling place;
- e. Restricting access to media personnel who do not comply with the rules; and
- f. Denying media access to individuals who are not duly accredited by the COMELEC.

SECTION 4. Conditions for Media Access. – The media personnel must wear their COMELEC-issued IDs at all times. These IDs are non-transferable and can only be used by the assigned holder. It must be presented to the EB, DESO, BOC, or designated officials upon arrival at the election venues.

Media coverage must be conducted in a way that does not disrupt the proceedings or interfere with the voters, poll workers, or security personnel or undermine ballot secrecy.

SECTION 5. Rules of Conduct. – Pursuant to Section 11 of COMELEC Resolution No. 11062, all accredited media personnel shall observe the following rules of conduct:

- a. Respect the authority of the COMELEC, EB, DESO, and BOC, with respect to the number of accredited media personnel which may be allowed inside the polling place, voting center, or canvassing venue at any given time, among others;
- b. Observe proper decorum at all times;
- c. Strictly no loitering inside the polling place, voting center, or canvassing center;
- d. Maintain professionalism at all times. Unprofessional activities shall not be tolerated. Unprofessional activities shall include, but shall not be limited to:
 - i. Refusal to submit to the authority of the COMELEC, the EB, DESO, or BOC;
 - ii. Disrupting the voting, counting and canvassing proceedings;
 - iii. Engaging in partisan political activities or endorse any candidate while inside the election venues;
 - iv. Engaging in any conduct that unduly influence the choice of voters, such as but not limited to, directly swaying the voter to speak for or against a candidate;
 - v. Conducting interviews inside the polling place and within the voting center. Interviews may only be conducted outside the voting center;
 - vi. Taking photographs or videos of actual ballots being filled out by the voters;
 - vii. Obstructing the movement of voters, poll workers, or security personnel;
 - viii. Violating the confidentiality of voters' choices;
 - ix. Invading the privacy of individuals who have not given their explicit consent to be interviewed;
 - x. Asking members of the Electoral Board that may lead to announcing the following matters during the voting period: (a) whether a certain registered voter already voted or not; (b) the number of registered voters who already voted or failed to vote thus far; or (c) any other fact tending to show or showing the state of the polls, pursuant to Section 40 of COMELEC Resolution No. 11076; and
 - xi. Engaging in any activity deemed unlawful, including violation of Gender-related laws and issuances.

SECTION 6. Violations and Consequences. - Improper use of the COMELEC-issued media ID, such as lending it to non-accredited individuals, is considered an abuse of accreditation. Any violation of these guidelines may lead to:

- a. Immediate removal from the premises; and
- b. Revocation of COMELEC accreditation and confiscation of the media ID. The revocation shall be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting, or Minutes of Canvassing, stating therein the reasons therefor.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 8. Dissemination. - The EID shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies to the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and the Election Officers nationwide.

SO ORDERED.

GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
Chairman

AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner

REY E. BULAY
Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner


NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner

MARIA NORINA S. TANGARO-CASINGAL
Commissioner

NOLI R. PIPO
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication on March 13, 2025.


CONSUELO B. DIOLA
Director IV
Office of the Commission Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02)85272987; email address comsec@comelec.gov.ph