

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS ELECTION OBSERVER RULES & INSTRUCTIONS

1. Interested parties **may observe** that the Elections Official is following proper procedures. The Election Official shall determine the number and placement of observers.
2. All observers shall sign in daily at the facility where they are observing.
3. It is the right of observers to be able to view processes at a proximity that allows them to ensure that staff are following proper procedures. However, please be sensitive to the individual's personal space. Observers must be professional and courteous in their conduct.
4. An Observer Badge will be issued and must be worn at all times. When leaving for the day, please return the badge to the check-in desk.
5. No eating or drinking is allowed in the election areas.
6. Radios, cameras and tape recorders are not allowed. Cell phones must be set to vibrate or off mode while observing the elections. No telephone use including taking of pictures, texting, video and conversations shall take place in any election workspace.
7. One spokesperson per group should be the primary point of contact.
8. The individual's function is to observe that procedures are followed. Observers cannot assist in operations, touch or handle any ballots or other election-related materials.
9. All questions concerning a procedure should be directed to the supervisor in charge and not directly to employees.
10. No more than two (2) observers are allowed to stand over an employee. Observers should avoid physical contact with employees.
11. Observers are to hold discussions and conversations outside the designated work areas.
12. Observers will be allowed into the work areas only when employees are performing election functions.
13. Operations will continue as scheduled whether or not an observer is present.
14. Failure to follow instructions should be reported. Violation of security by an observer may cause expulsion from the building or relocation by a Sheriff Deputy or County Security.
15. Interviews will take place outside of the buildings so that it is not disruptive to the election process, or in an area designated by the County Clerk.
16. Only credentialed media are allowed to take pictures or record (audio or video) activities within the office. (Per CCROV 14122 from the Secretary of State)
17. County telephones may not be used by non-county personnel.
18. Some people have sensitivities to perfumes and colognes. Please refrain from wearing strong perfume or aftershave while observing.

I. General Rules for Observers at the Polls

Observers may:

- Observe the proceedings at the polls, including the opening and closing procedures.
- Obtain information from the precinct index that is posted near the entrance.
- Make notes and watch all procedures.
- View all activities at the central counting site on Election Day.
- View the canvass of the vote activities following the election.
- View vote by mail and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of staff at the polls as long as they do not interfere with the conduct of any part of the voting process.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central count site as long as they do not interfere with the conduct of the election procedures.

Observers are responsible for:

- Checking in at each site, whether polling place, warehouse, or central counting site.
- Wearing an identification badge when observing at the elections office.
- Introducing themselves to the Election Inspector when observing at the polls.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the election process.

Observers may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
- Converse with voters (within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place) regarding the casting of a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his or her qualifications to vote. [EC 18541 & 18370]
- Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel. [EC 319.5]
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- Use cellular phones, pagers, or two-way radios inside the polling place and/or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
- Talk to central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use office computers, telephones or other non-public facilities at polling places or the central counting site.
- Touch election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls, warehouse, or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place.
- Some people have sensitivities to perfumes and colognes. Please refrain from wearing strong perfume or aftershave while observing.

- For safety purposes anyone entering the elections warehouse must wear sturdy shoes with closed toes that provide full coverage.
- Photograph, video tape, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.

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