



ELECTION OBSERVER PLAN

April 8, 2025

First Supervisorial District, Special Primary Election

County and System Information

County: San Diego

Contact: Cynthia L. Paes, Registrar of Voters

Voting System: Democracy Suite 5.10A Election Management System V. 5.10.50.83
ImageCast Central V. 5.10.2.1 | HiPro Twain Driver 1.2.2.1
ImageCast X V. 5.10.12.4 BIOS 2.04J.01
ImageCast Voter Activation V. 5.10.50.83
Mobile Ballot Printing V. 5.10.50.83
Image Cast Remote V 5.10A
Certified by CA Secretary of State – July 9, 2020

Counting Type: Central Count (no vote center tabulators)

ePoll Book: Electronic Poll Book
Tenex Software Solutions
Precinct Central ePollbook Version 6.0.1
Certified by CA Secretary of State – January 31, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this Election Observer Plan is to:

1. Provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process and its official canvass.
2. Assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process.
3. Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.
4. In accordance with state and county public health guidance, provide a safe and healthy environment for the public, observers, poll workers and Registrar of Voters employees under COVID-19 conditions.

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Election Observing at Vote Centers

Election Observers are welcomed at vote centers. An observer may be any public citizen, the media, candidate or volunteer for any candidate and ballot measure.

There are strict policies and procedures election observers must follow in order to prevent voter intimidation at vote centers and keeping voters, other public observers and poll workers safe and healthy.

The focus of the observer policies written in California Elections Code is to not only allow for the public to witness all election procedures, but to also prevent interference with the voting process, and prevent voter intimidation.

Observation Under COVID-19 Conditions

The Registrar of Voters follows local public health official guidance related to COVID-19.

All election observers shall follow practices that help control and prevent the spread of colds and flu, including daily self-screening at home prior to arriving at the observation location. When performing daily self-screening, check for any of the following symptoms:

- Frequent cough
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell

Election observers should stay home if they are experiencing any of the above symptoms. In addition, observers should stay home if they:

- Feel sick
- Have tested positive for COVID-19

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Videotaping or Photography

Members of the public may take photographs or videotape from inside a vote center before they open and after they close.

- Members of the public may only take photographs or videotape inside the vote center while they are open provided that no voters are present, and the activity does not interfere with poll worker operations.
- Voters are allowed to take a picture with their ballot inside the vote center so long as it does not disrupt, intimidate, or interfere with another voter's ability to vote and cast their ballot in private.
- Cell phones and tablets may be used inside of the vote center so long as it does not disrupt, intimidate, threaten, dissuade, or interfere with another voter's ability to vote and cast their ballot in private, does not otherwise interfere with voting operations at the vote center and does not constitute electioneering.

Electioneering at Vote Centers

No electioneering within 100 feet of a vote center's entrance – no campaigning, making speeches, distributing campaign literature, or promoting any contests that are on the ballot. This prohibited activity includes wearing campaign clothing, head gear, buttons, lapel pins, flags, banners, or signs.

Vote Center Observers may:

- Observe the processes of opening and closing the vote center.
- Inspect the Roster of Voters and the Street Index, at the convenience of the poll workers and voters.
- Observe voting procedures throughout the day.

Vote Center Observers may NOT:

- Interfere with the voting process or with poll worker operations.
- Disrupt the voting process, otherwise intimidate voters, or take photographs of voters and/or their ballot inside the vote center.
- Touch any voting materials.
- Sit at the poll worker table.
- Discuss any ballot or political issue.
- Be in the area where voters are casting their ballots (e.g., ballot box or voting booths).

Media

- Provide media credentials and obtain poll worker and voter permission before any photography and videotaping can be allowed during voting hours.
- Preserve the secrecy of all ballots while in the vote center to protect voter privacy and prevent voter intimidation.

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Media (continued)

- Media may take photos or video near the vote center during voting hours, as well as interview voters (with voter’s permission) about the election outside the vote center. This is called an “exit poll.”
- Exit polls must be conduct no less than 25 feet from the entrance to the vote center.
- Do not interfere with the voting process or poll worker operations.

Each vote center will have the Observer Policies and Procedures publicly posted. If the Observer has any questions, a poll worker will assist them as they are available.

Election Night Observers

Observation is welcome throughout the day, however, for those individuals and groups who are more interested with the Election Night activities you are asked to arrive by **8:00 PM**, at the Registrar of Voters Office, at **5600 Overland Avenue**, County Operations Center Campus, in Kearny Mesa. Upon arrival, observers will sign in, be provided the Election Observer Plan, Public Observation Ground Rules, and will be asked to sign the acknowledgement form stating the receipt of these documents. Observers will be given an overview of election activities on Election Night and an opportunity to ask questions.

While waiting for ballots and election supplies to arrive from the vote centers, the Registrar of Voters and/or the designated escort will explain the various functional areas of the tally center, which include ballot custody, processing, and counting. After all ballots and other items have been received from the vote centers and tallied, observers and observer escorts will be released from their duties. Observers may elect to remain at the Central Tally Center until all precinct ballots are scanned and added to the count.

Observers may also witness vote center and post-election canvass activities in the same manner allowed to any member of the public in accordance with state and local laws, regulations, and procedures. Election Night observation ground rules include:

Election Night Observers are responsible for:

- a) Wearing an identification badge with their name prominently displayed
- b) Maintaining a professional manner and appropriate clothing attire while observing the counting process
- c) Ensuring they do not speak to persons conducting the count or interfere with the elections process

Election Night Observers may:

- a) Make notes and watch all procedures
- b) View all election related activities at the central counting site on Election Night

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Election Night Observers may (continued):

- c) Ask questions of the Registrar of Voters (if available) and/or the designated escort
- d) Photograph or videotape at the Central Tally Center as permitted by the Registrar, but in no case in such a manner that would disrupt the tally process
- e) Provide feedback in written or oral form

Election Night Observers may NOT:

- a) Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election
- b) Touch any voting materials or sit at the official worktables
- c) Converse with voters within 100 feet of the entrance to the Registrar's office which serves as a ballot drop off site on Election Day
- d) Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons, or apparel
- e) Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel
- f) Except as noted, use cell phones, pagers, or two-way radios while in the observation areas
- g) Photograph or videotape outside designated areas
- h) Enter unauthorized areas
- i) Touch election personnel
- j) Eat or drink in the counting site
- k) Assist in operations at the Registrar of Voters
- l) Enter the ballot counting room at any time, unless authorized by the Registrar
- m) Photograph or videotape during voting hours

Should the number of Election Night observers become so great that it interferes with the ballot counting/canvassing process; the Registrar of Voters will limit the number of observers allowed in the observation area.

Any additional observers must stay in a designated area. To allow everyone the opportunity to observe at close range, the Registrar of Voters may establish a rotation system so that all interested observers will have the opportunity to do so.

Public Observation at the Registrar of Voters Office

See Public Observation Ground Rules

Enclosures

Public Observation Ground Rules

Warning: Corrupting the Voting process is Prohibited (notice)

Warning: Electioneering Prohibited (notice)