

Sonoma County
Election Observer Panel Plan
June 3, 2008 Consolidated Direct Primary Election

I. County and System Information

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|---|---|
| 1. Name of County: | Sonoma |
| 2. Name of Contact: | Gloria D. Colter, Asst. Registrar of Voters |
| 3. Contact's Phone: | 707-565-6814; 707-293-0896 (cell) |
| 4. Vendor/Voting Systems
Used by County: | DFM – EIMS/BC-Win; Mark-A-Vote;
Hart Intercivic DAU eSlate |
| 5. Date: | May 1, 2008 |

II. Purpose

In Sonoma County, the Election Observer Panel and Logic and Accuracy Board are combined into a single panel serving both functions. Pursuant to Sections 7.2 (Election Observer Panel) and 7.3 (Logic and Accuracy Certification) of the Procedures for Use of the Mark-a-Vote Voting System (as approved by the Voting Systems Panel January 15, 2004, and adopted by the Secretary of State), the purpose of the Election Observer Panel is to observe all critical procedures of the vote tallying process. The purpose of the Logic and Accuracy Certification Panel is to verify that the ballot counting program accurately tallies the logic and accuracy test ballot cards.

III. Invite

At roughly E-60, requests for appointment are sent either by letter or by e-mail to the following:

- County Grand Jury.
- County Information Systems Department.
- Representatives from affected agencies.
- Other groups or individuals who have expressed an interest in observing the vote tallying process.

IV. Duties, General Rules of Conduct

Panelists are responsible for:

- The duties set forth below:
 - Receive from the elections official all required test materials.
 - Take steps to ensure the security of the said materials before, during and subsequent to the election, except when in the possession of the elections official.
 - Observe the performance of all required tests.
 - Verify that the ballot counting program accurately tallies the logic and accuracy test ballot cards.
 - Note any discrepancies and problems and affirm their resolution or correction.
 - Certify to the performance of each of the above prescribed duties.
 - Sign the appropriate certificates.

- Wearing an identification badge.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.

Panelists may:

- Make notes and watch all procedures.
- View all activities at the central counting site.
- View the canvass of the vote activities following the election.
- View absentee and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site.

Panelists may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.

V. Orientation and Pre-Election, Pre-Tabulation and Post-Election Test Observation and Verification

Election Observer/Logic and Accuracy Panel (hereafter Panel) meets at the Registrar of Voters Office ten days prior to the election for an orientation and to observe and verify the Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Tests. This meeting provides members with an opportunity to ask questions about the entire election process and gives them an overview of the ballot tabulation process. Panelists have access to all areas of ballot processing and tabulation (during the testing and on Election Night).

The Panel reconvenes on Election Day at roughly 2:00 p.m. to observe and verify the Pre-Tabulation Logic and Accuracy Tests (run prior to the running of absentee ballots). Panelists have the option of remaining at the Registrar's Office from this time or may leave providing they return to the Registrar's Office no later than 8:00 p.m. The Panel remains at the Registrar's Office throughout the evening (and sometimes the following morning, if need be) observing all aspects of the vote tallying process. The Panel observes and verifies the Post-Election Logic and Accuracy Tests (run after all ballots have been tabulated on Election Night).

The Panel is required to return to observe and verify the Logic and Accuracy Tests both before and after the running of ballots during the Official Canvass. Panelists may observe any processes during the Official Canvass. To the extent possible, the Panel is comprised of the same members at all testing opportunities.

VI. Mechanism for Feedback

Panelists are provided a form for providing feedback concerning the ballot tabulation process and any other aspects of the administration of the election.