



CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR COUNTY OF MONO

P.O. BOX 237, BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517
(760) 932-5538 • FAX (760) 932-5531

Lynda Roberts
Clerk-Recorder-Registrar
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Linda Romero
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ELECTION OBSERVER PLAN for STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION 2009

COUNTY: Mono
CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, Registrar
PHONE: (760) 932-5538
VENDOR/VOTING SYSTEM: Sequoia Optech Insight and Sequoia Edge
DATE: May 1, 2009

Purpose of Plan:

1. Provide members of the public with opportunity to observe and make suggestions on ways to improve the Election Process.
2. Ensure the integrity of the election process
3. Help build voter confidence in the election process, including voting at polls, absentee voting and ballot counting.

Invite:

Prepare a letter of invitation to members of the following groups/organizations inviting them to be a part of the Election Observer Panel.

1. Grand Jury
2. Political Party Central Committees
3. Advocacy Groups
4. Candidates
5. Other groups or individuals who express an interest in observing Election Day activities.

Meet with prospective panel members to:

1. Provide panel members an opportunity to ask questions
2. Go over General Rules for Observers with panel members
3. Provide information to allow panel members to participate (ie: letter of introduction to inspectors of various polling places; explanation of how the counting system works, including a demonstration of the system to the panel. Provide a list of all polling places in Mono County and the location of the central counting site location and hours of operation.

Instruction to Inspectors and appointment letters for Panel Members:

1. After groups have designated a panel member(s), prepare letters of introduction for the panelist to use when visiting polling places on Election Day.
2. Advise all Inspectors of possible visits by panel members and provide them with a copy of the General Rules for Observers.
3. Instruct Inspectors on ways that he/she can assist the panelist in observing activities related to the election process.

Mechanism for Feedback:

1. Provide panelist with an opportunity to provide our office with feedback (questionnaire) on their Election Day experience and any suggestions/changes they would recommend.
2. Provide an opportunity for panelist to indicate he/she would like to meet with you or your representative to discuss the election process.



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April 3, 2009

To: Foreman, Mono County Grand Jury
County Central Committees
Advocacy groups

From: Lynda Roberts, Mono County Registrar of Voters

Re: Election Observer Panel

The Department of Elections will convene an Election Observer Panel which will be invited to observe activities associated with the Statewide Special Election, to be held on May 19, 2009. Representatives of political party county central committees, advocacy groups, candidates, and a member or members of the County Grand Jury are invited to be a part of this panel. Members of the Panel may visit one or more polling places on Election Day and/or may visit the ballot counting center in Bridgeport to observe the tabulation of ballots on election night. Members of the Panel will be provided with the information they need to participate in these activities and are requested to read the General Rules of Observers that is enclosed herein.

If your organization would like to be represented on the Election Observer Panel, Please notify Lynda Romero, Assistant Mono County Clerk, by mail (P.O. Box 237, Bridgeport, CA 93517) by phone (760-932-5534) or by email (lromero@mono.ca.gov) Please respond by April 24, 2009 with the name of your representative.

Thank you for your interest in participating in our electoral system.

Sincerely,
LYNDA ROBERTS
Mono County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

By _____ Assistant Clerk/Registrar of Voters
Linda Romero

cc: Chris Lizza, Forman, Mono County Grand Jury, P.O. Box 95, Lee Vining, CA 93541
Republican Central Committee Member Eastman, P.O. Box 1305, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Democratic Central Committee Member Wuamett, 5160 Westridge Rd., Bishop, CA 93514



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May 19, 2009

To: Precinct Inspectors
From: Lynda Roberts, Mono County Registrar of Voters
Re: Election Observer Panel

This letter will introduce _____ whom I have appointed to the Election Observer Panel for the Statewide Special Election. Members of this Panel have been invited to observe activities related to the administration of an election, including visiting polling places.

No person, including a member of the Election Observer Panel, may interfere with the operations of the polling place but may ask you to explain certain operations and procedures. Please extend every courtesy to this panel member.

If you have concerns or questions regarding this process, please call me at (760) 932-5538; cell (760) 709-6822.

Thank you for your cooperation and your service to our county's voters.

Sincerely,

LYNDA ROBERTS
Mono County Registrar of Voters

General Rules for Observers

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 election procedures.
- View election-related 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 poll workers or voters 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 counting 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 or central counting site.
- Wearing an identification badge.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election process.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the election process.

Observers may not:

- Interfere, in the judgment of the elections official, with the conduct of the election.
- Physically handle any voting materials or equipment.
- Sit at the official worktables or view confidential voter information on any work terminal.
- Communicate 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.
- Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
- 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 or attempt to stop the central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use the telephones, computers or other polling place facilities at polling places or the central counting site.
- Make physical contact with election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place or the central counting site.