

**ELECTION OBSERVER PLAN
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
MAY 19, 2009
STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION**

County and System Information

County: San Diego

Contact: Deborah Seiler, Registrar of Voters, 858 694 3401

Voting System: Diebold AccuVote-OS Optical Scan for mail and precinct ballots;
Diebold AccuVote TSx with AccuView Printer Module for voters with specific needs

Purpose

The purpose of this Election Observer Plan is to:

1. Provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process.
2. Assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process.
3. Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

Invite

Between E-30 and E-15, invite the following to observe election processes:

- County Grand Jury
- Political Party Central Committee Members
- City Clerks
- League of Women Voters
- Citizen Volunteers

Appointment Letters

After groups have provided the names of interested panelists, the Registrar will prepare letters of introduction for panelists to use when visiting polling places on Election Day. Materials to be prepared for each panelist will include a listing of all polling places within the county as well as the central counting location and hours of operation.

Observers

Observers are asked to arrive at 7:30 pm at the Registrar of Voters Office at 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite I, in Kearny Mesa. Upon arrival, observers will be issued an identification badge. Observers will be escorted to the secured Tally

Center and will be provided an overview of the tally processes. Shortly after 8 pm they will then witness the release of mail ballot vote results.

While waiting for ballots, memory cards, and supplies to arrive from the polls, the Registrar and/or her ombudspersons will continue to 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 polls, observers will be released from their duties. Observers may elect to remain at the central Tally Center until all precinct ballots are scanned.

Observers may also witness polling place 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. Poll Watcher Guidelines and Ground Rules for Observing Mail Ballot Processing and Scanning are attached.

Ground Rules for Observers

Observers may:

- Make notes and watch all procedures
- View all activities at the central counting site on Election Night
- View all activities at polling places on Election Day
- Ask questions of the Registrar of Voters and her designated ombudspersons
- Photograph or videograph at the central Tally Center as permitted by the Registrar, but in no case in such a manner that would disrupt the tally process
- Photograph or videograph at polling places ONLY prior to polls opening and after polls close, as permitted by the Registrar, but in no case while voters are voting
- In a courteous manner, ask the precinct inspector to view ballot/signature reconciliation information which is recorded on roster covers after polls close
- View pre-election mail ballot processing and scanning operations pursuant to the attached Ground Rules
- Observe post-election canvass activities
- Provide feedback in written or oral form

Observers are responsible for:

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

Observers may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election
- Touch any voting materials or sit at the official work tables

- Converse with voters within 100 feet of the entrance to the Registrars office which serves as a ballot drop off site on Election Day
- 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 cell phones, pagers, or two-way radios while in the observation areas
- Photograph or video tape outside designated areas
- Enter unauthorized areas
- Touch election personnel
- Eat or drink in the counting site
- Assist in operations at the Registrar of Voters
- Enter the ballot counting room at any time during tabulation
- Photograph or videograph during voting hours

Should the number of observers become so great that it interferes with the ballot counting/canvassing process, the Registrar of Voters will limit the number of observers who will be allowed to move about the room at the same time.

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.

Observers **MAY** challenge a ballot in the following manner:

- a. The observer addresses the Registrar and states the reason for the challenge.
 - b. The Registrar records the reason for the challenge and then sets the ballot aside.
 - c. Before the canvass is completed the Registrar of Voters shall determine whether the challenge is to be allowed. Such determination shall be final.
 - d. Except as otherwise provided, the processing and counting of ballots and the disposition of the challenges of ballots shall be according to the laws now in force pertaining to the election for which they are cast.
2. Public telephones are located in the tunnel area. Restrooms are located in the back warehouse. A lunchroom/snack bar is located next to the office, off of the tunnel.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I
(print name)

HAVE READ THE ELECTION OBSERVER PLAN AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY

THE RULES FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS.

(signed)

(date)