



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

*Colleen Setzer*  
County Clerk • Registrar of Voters

510 N Main Street  
Yreka, CA 96097-2525

County Clerk  
(530) 842-8084

Board of Supervisors  
(530) 842-8081

Elections  
(530) 842-8084

Fax  
(530) 842-8093

Toll Free  
1-888-854-2000 x8084

Website  
[www.co.siskiyou.ca.us](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us)

## SISKIYOU COUNTY ELECTION OBSERVER PANEL PLAN FOR THE November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election

### I. County and System Information

**Name of County:** Siskiyou  
**Name of Contact:** Colleen Setzer, County Clerk  
**Contact's Telephone:** 530.842.8084  
**Vendor and Voting Systems Used by the County:** Premier Elections  
AccuVote Optical Scan and ES&S AutoMark

### II. Purpose

The purpose of Siskiyou County's Election Observer Panel 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 by assuring the public that Siskiyou County elections are open and thereby building voter confidence in the election process.

### III. Invite

Between E-60 and E-30, the attached invitation will be sent to the Siskiyou County Grand Jury, members of the media, and political party central committees. In addition, a newspaper column will be distributed which outlines the Observer Panel and serves as an invitation to the public to be a panel member.

### IV. Appointment Letter/Certification

The attached appointment letter will be provided to panelists who will be observing poll activities. In addition, panelists will be asked to sign the attached certification prior to observing activities.

### V. Mechanism for Feedback

Panelists will be encouraged to submit written comments to the County Clerk's Office regarding their observations.

**Siskiyou County  
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters**

**OFFICIAL ELECTION OBSERVER PANEL PROCEDURES**

**Purpose of the Panel:**

The purpose of an official panel to observe election procedures is:

1. To provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process.
2. Assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process by assuring the public that Siskiyou County elections are an open process and thereby building voter confidence in the election process.

**Functions to be observed:**

- Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing
- Poll Worker Training Classes
- Receipt and storage of vote-by-mail ballots.
- Signature/eligibility verification of vote-by-mail ballots
- Counting vote-by-mail ballots
- Processing voters at the polls
- Tabulation of election results
- Receiving ballots and election supplies from the polls in the County Clerk's Office
- Storing and securing ballots after the count
- Official Canvass of the election

**Guidelines/Procedures – the County Clerk will directly oversee Observer Panel Activities**

- At no time may an observer touch the ballots or counting equipment or interfere with ballot processing.
- Observers attending poll worker training class must introduce themselves to the facilitator prior to the beginning of the class.
- Panelists planning to observe poll activities must request a letter of introduction from the County Clerk's Office, at least 10 days prior to Election Day, and present the letter to the inspector at the polls on Election Day.
- Panelists observing activities in the County Clerk's Office on Election Night are expected to arrive at the County Clerk's Office by 7:15 p.m.
- Election Night Observers will be expected to show identification, sign in and receive security badges which must be worn at all times while performing their duties.

- On Election Night in the County Clerk's Office, In the event of violation of any of these guidelines, the County Clerk may require the offending panel member to leave the ballot processing and counting areas and limit any continued presence to the public viewing areas.
- During the performance of panel observation, any questions a panel member may have are to be directed to the County Clerk or designated supervisors rather than to individual department employees or volunteers.

### **Comments**

Panel members are encouraged to submit written comments to the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters concerning observations or suggestions related to election procedures and activities. Panel observations and comments will be recorded for evaluation and/or future use.

September 23, 2008

Election procedures provide for and encourage the public observance of all election-related processes and procedures. The Siskiyou County Clerk's Office is conducting the Presidential General Election on November 4, 2008 and I invite your organization to observe election processes and procedures including pre-election logic and accuracy testing, poll worker training classes, processing vote-by-mail ballots, processing voters at the polls, tabulation of elections results on election night and the post-election canvass.

Members of the Observer Panel will be given the opportunity to observe that orderly procedures are followed in all phases of conducting this election. Panel members are needed to observe pre-election activities, including logic and accuracy testing of the vote-counting system, poll worker training classes and processing returned vote-by-mail ballots. Panelists are also invited to observe Election Day activities at the polls as well as at the County Clerk's Office. For your information and planning purposes, I have enclosed a list of tentative time-frames for each activity.

Please note that Observer Panel membership is limited to those persons who are not candidates and/or not related to any candidate running for office in this election.

I have enclosed a copy of the Official Election Observer Panel Procedures for your information.

Although being a member of the Observer Panel requires a significant time commitment, I believe it is an informative and rewarding experience and assists in my goal of ensuring the integrity and openness of the election process.

If your organization would like to have representatives as observers, please submit their names and the activities they would like to observe as soon as possible but no later than October 10, 2008, by calling 842-8084.

Please note that due to limited space in the County Clerk's Office, organizations are limited to one representative on Election Night.

Sincerely,

Colleen Setzer, County Clerk  
encs.

**CERTIFICATION BY OBSERVER PANEL MEMBER**

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned member of the Official Observer Panel, having been duly appointed by Colleen Setzer, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters for the County of Siskiyou, for the November 4, 2008 Election, will observe the following processes/procedures:

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I agree to the following 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 all procedures; view all activities at the central counting site on election day; view the canvass of the vote activities following the election; ask questions of the staff at the polls, ask questions of the County Clerk or Assistant County at the central counting site.

Observers are responsible for: checking in at each site, whether polling place or the County Clerk's Office; wear an identification badge and/or present letter of introduction; maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes; ensuring they do not interfere with election processes.

Observers may not: interfere in any way with the conduct of the election; touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official work tables; 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; 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 central count workers while they are processing ballots; use the telephones, computers or other polling place facilities at polling places or the central counting site; touch election personnel; eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site; assist in operations at any polling place.

**Signature**

**Date**

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# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

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*Colleen Setzer*

*County Clerk • Registrar of Voters*

510 N Main Street  
Yreka, CA 96097-2525

## MEMORANDUM

County Clerk  
(530) 842-8084

To: Precinct Inspectors

Board of Supervisors  
(530) 842-8081

From: Colleen Setzer, County Clerk

Elections  
(530) 842-8084

Date:

Fax  
(530) 842-8093

Re: Election Observer Panel Member

Toll Free  
1-888-854-2000 x8084

This letter introduces , whom I have appointed to the Election Observer Panel for the November 4, 2008 General Election. Members of the Election Observer Panel are invited to observe activities related to the administration of an election, including visiting polling places.

Website  
[www.co.siskiyou.ca.us](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us)

No person, including a member of the Election Observer Panel, may interfere with the operation of polling places. and other members of the Election Observer Panel may ask you to explain certain operations and procedures, but cannot ask you questions regarding a specific voter. Please extend every courtesy to .

If you have any questions, please contact me at 842-8084.

Thank you,

Colleen Setzer, County Clerk