

# Sutter County Election Observer Panel Plan

## County and System Information

County: Sutter  
Contact: Donna Johnston, Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters  
Phone: 530-822-7122  
Vendor/System: Sequoia Voting Systems/ AVC Edge II, 400C Optical Scan

## Purpose

The purpose of an Election Observer Panel Plan is to provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process, assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process, and encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

## Invitation

A media release and letters of invitation to participate will be sent to the following entities:

- County Grand Jury
- Political Party Central Committee Members
- Advocacy Groups
- League of Women Voters

Other groups or individuals expressing an interest in observing Election Day activities may also be included in the panel.

## Appointment

After the groups have provided the names of interested panelists, appointments will be made to the panel. Each individual will be given a list of the polling places and an introduction letter to use when visiting the polling places, along with the General Rules for Observers which follows.

## 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.

- View absentee and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of staff or voters at the polls.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site.

**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 processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the elections process.

**Observers may not:**

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
- 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 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.
- Touch election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place.

## **Observer Panel Feedback**

Participants on the Observer Panel are encouraged to submit feedback regarding their experience. This feedback can be submitted in writing, by email or in person. Written feedback can be submitted to Sutter County Elections, 1435 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City, CA 95993. Email can be submitted to [elections@co.sutter.ca.us](mailto:elections@co.sutter.ca.us). Personal feedback will need to be scheduled by calling 530-822-7122.