Tuolumne County
Election Observer Panel Plan

I. County and System Information

1. Tuolumne County
2. Deborah Russell
3. 209-533-5552
4. ES&S
5. October 7, 2008

II. Purposes

The purposes of an Election Observer Panel are 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.

III. Invite

Between E-60 and E-30 or as soon as practicable, prepare letters of invitation to the following:

1. County Grand Jury
2. Political Party Central Committee Members
3. Advocacy Groups
4. League of Women Voters
5. Media

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

IV. Appointment Letters (for introduction to precinct workers)

After the groups have provided the names of interested panelists, prepare letters of introduction (see example attached, Exhibit "A") for the panelist 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 for that specific election (see example attached, Exhibit "B") as well as the central counting site location and hours of operation.

SAMPLE INVITATION LETTER

October 7, 2008

Chairperson
Entity

Dear _____:

Tuolumne County Elections will convene an Election Observer Panel to observe activities associated with the _____ Election, which will be held on _____. Representatives of the county central committees, advocacy groups and the Tuolumne County Grand Jury are invited to participate.

Typically, members of the Panel visit one or more polling places on Election Day and visit the ballot counting center to observe the tabulation of ballots on election night. Panel members are also invited to observe staff at the county elections office as they process vote by mail ballots. Members of the Panel will be provided with the information they need for these activities.

If your organization would like to be represented on the Election Observer Panel, please notify me by mail, phone, (533-5570) or by email at drussell@co.tuolumne.ca.us. Please respond by _____ _____, with the name of your representative. I will be available to meet with Panel members to explain their role in greater detail and to provide each with the information they will need.

Very truly yours,

Deborah Russell
County Clerk/Auditor-Controller

General Rules for Observers

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:

- Observe the proceedings at the polls, including opening and closing procedures.
- Obtain information from the precinct index that is posted near the entrance.
- Look at the copy of the Public Index being updated at the worktable (if the Election Officers are not using it and there are no voters waiting to vote).
- 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 vote by mail and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of poll workers.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site.

Observers may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Monopolize and/or remove the posted Public Indexes so that others are unable to use them.
- Insist that the Election Officers stop processing voters so poll watchers can view the Public Index being updated at the work table.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
- Use the area between the official worktable and voting booths as an observation point/post.
- 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.
- Wear candidate badges, discuss candidates or issues, or bring any campaign material into the polling place, and/or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
- Take photographs, video tape, or audio record poll workers or voters without their permission. At no time shall an observer photograph, video tape, or otherwise record any voting material that shows how a voter is voting or has voted or reveals voter registration information. This includes photo/video-enabled cell phones.
- Use cellular phones, pagers, or two-way radios inside the polling place or central counting site and/or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- 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.
- Move from one Election room to another unless escorted by Election staff or Election staff is in each room.
- Touch election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
- Bring children with them to the polling place or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place or the central counting site.

EXHIBIT "A"

DATE:

TO: Precinct Inspector

FROM: Deborah Russell, County Clerk/Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: ELECTION OBSERVER PANEL

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

No person, including members 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. Please extend every courtesy to _____.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at 533-5570.

EXHIBIT "B"

Central Count will occur the day prior to Election Day and Election Day at Election Central, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. located at:

Tuolumne County Elections Department
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5570

Polling places are open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Election Day only.

POLLING PLACE

AMERICAN LEGION HALL
18775 MANZANITA DR
TWAIN HARTE, CA 95383

BELLEVIEW SCHOOL
22736 KEWIN MILL RD
SONORA, CA 95370

CHAPEL IN THE PINES
18580 CHEROKEE DR
TWAIN HARTE, CA 95383

CHURCH OF THE 49er's
11155 JACKSON STREET
COLUMBIA, CA 95310

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
13650 BERGEL RD
SONORA, CA 95370

CRYSTAL FALLS CLUBHOUSE
21725 CRYSTAL FALLS DR
SONORA, CA 95370

CRYSTAL FALLS FIRE STATION
ACORN & PHOENIX LAKE RD
SONORA, CA 95370

ELKS LODGE
100 ELK DR
SONORA, CA 95370

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
18080 BLUEBELL EAST
SONORA, CA 95370

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
14425 MONO WAY
SONORA, CA 95370

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
19765 GRACE WAY
SONORA, CA 95370

GROVELAND LIBRARY/HALL
18990 HWY 120
GROVELAND, CA 95321

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY HALL
MAIN STREET
JAMESTOWN, CA 95327

POLLING PLACE

JAMESTOWN FIRE STATION
18249 FOURTH AVENUE
JAMESTOWN, CA 95327

LAKE DON PEDRO ASSOC. (HACIENDA)
5182 FUENTE DE FLORES
LA GRANGE, CA 95329

LAZY Z RESORT
22732 MIDDLE CAMP RD
TWAIN HARTE, CA 95383

MEMORIAL HALL KITCHEN/ VETERANS ROOM
18375 FIR DR
TUOLUMNE, CA 95379

MILL VILLA ESTATES
18717 MILL VILLA RD
SONORA, CA 95370

MIWUK LIBRARY
24411 SIERRA PARK RD
MIWUK VILLAGE, CA 95370

MODRELL RESIDENCE
17700 CAMPBELLS FLAT RD
SONORA, CA 95370

MT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
24176 PINE LAKE DR
SUGAR PINE, CA 95346

MOTHER LODE FAIRGROUNDS (MANZANITA RM)
220 SOUTHGATE DR
SONORA, CA 95370

PINE MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE
20270 PINE MOUNTAIN DR
GROVELAND, CA 95321

PONDEROSA HILLS FIRE STATION
20810 TOMIRA MEADOW DRIVE
TUOLUMNE, CA 95379

SKYLINE PLACE
12877 SYLVA LANE
SONORA, CA 95370

SONORA FOURSQUARE CHURCH
20415 JAMESTOWN RD
SONORA, CA 95370

POLLING PLACE

SONORA HILLS CLUBHOUSE
SONORA HILLS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
SONORA, CA 95370

SONORA LIBRARY
480 GREENLEY RD
SONORA, CA 95370

SOULSBYVILLE METHODIST CHURCH
19982 COMMUNITY DR (SOCIAL HALL)
SOULSBYVILLE, CA 95372

ST MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
13880 JOSHUA WAY
SONORA, CA 95370

TABLE MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
19633 RAWHIDE RD
SONORA, CA 95370

TWAIN HARTE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
23191 MARK TWAIN DR
TWAIN HARTE, CA 95383

WILLOW SPRINGS CLUBHOUSE
20522 WILLOW SPRINGS DR
SOULSBYVILLE, CA 95372