

Election Observer Plan

I. County and System Information

1. Name of County: **Humboldt County**
2. Name of Contact: **Carolyn Crnich, Registrar of Voters**
3. Contact's Phone: **(707) 445-7678**
4. Vendor and Voting Systems Used by County: **Hart InterCivic eScan and e-Slate for HAVA required accessibility**

II. Purpose

The purpose of an Election Observer Panel is to:

1. Provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process including the training of precinct board and Schools of Instruction
2. Assist in enduring the integrity of the election process.
3. Ensure the transparency of the election process in Humboldt County
4. Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process
5. Provide feedback to the Elections Administration regarding positive experiences as wells as opportunities for improvement

III. Invite

1. County Grand Jury
2. Political Party Central Committee Members
3. Advocacy Groups
4. League of Women Voters
5. Media
6. Candidates and their campaign representatives

Other groups or individuals express 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, prepared letters of introduction for the 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 for that specific election as well as the central counting site location and hours of operation. Time and place of logic and accuracy testing will be included in prepared materials.

V. Mechanism for Feedback

Each observer will be given a supply of precinct review forms which will be returned to the elections department following the election or official canvass of the vote. Feedback will be catalogued and reviewed for suggested improvements to the system. Observers will meet with Registrar of Voters and staff or with the Humboldt County Elections Advisory Committee following the certification of the election to discuss and review their suggestions and the possible implementation of practical solutions.

NOTE: While this Observer Panel is responsible for providing feedback to the Elections Department, it does not limit the ability of the public to observe the election process (following the same guidelines) in an unofficial capacity and provide feedback as well.

General Rules for Observers

Observers may:

- Attend the Schools of Instructions for precinct board members
- 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 election processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the election 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 the polling place) regarding the casting of a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his or her qualifications to vote.
- Display any election materials 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 the operation at any polling place.