

Political Observer Protocols: Do's & Don'ts

DO's

- Have an original, wet-signature appointment letter from the County Chair
- Direct all questions and inquiries to the Inspector—they will be your point of contact in the polling place.
- Polls are open from 6 AM until 7 PM, but voting will take place until all voters in line at 7 PM have voted—plan on a long day.
- Observers may arrive and leave at the time of their choosing. However, frequent remittance may be regulated as directed if determined by an election official to avoid interference or disruption of voting activities.
- Ensure that all eligible voters are allowed to vote.
- Oversee election procedures by watching and listening; position yourself so that you can observe all of the activities taking place.
- Observe all instructions given by the election Inspector, Trouble Shooter, and officials.
- Observers may make written notes while on duty.
- Observers may observe assistance being given to voters.
- Watch out for anyone attempting to unlawfully influence a voter, tampering with the voting equipment, interfering with the election official, or inequitable application of voting laws and procedures.
- Please notify the Inspector immediately with any issues or concerns.

DON'Ts

- Observers may not be within 6 feet of the ballot box or voting booths.
- Observers may not enter a voting booth except to mark their own ballot in their own voting precinct.
- Observers may not talk to voters within the 75 feet.
- Observers must direct all inquiries to the Inspector—they may not talk to the Board or interfere with the processing of voters.
- Observers are not allowed to reveal any results prior to 8 PM or how a voter has voted.
- Observers may not have recording devices such as cameras, audio recorders, video equipment, etc.
- Observers may not interfere with nor disrupt the voting process.
- Observers are not allowed to electioneer within the 75 feet nor wear candidate or party materials.