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Registrar of Voters

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**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**  
**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

## **Election Observer Panel Plan**

### **I. County and System Information**

- Sequoia Voting Systems Edge II with Verivote and DFM Mark-A-Vote

### **II. Purpose**

The purpose of an Election Observer Panel is to:

- Provide for orderly public observation of the election process.
- Ensure that the election process is conducted transparently.
- Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

### **III. Invite**

Between E-60 and E-30, send out letters of invitation to the following:

- County Grand Jury
- Political Party Central Committee Members
- Media

Other groups or individuals expressing an interest in observing Election Day activities may also, at the discretion of the Registrar of Voters, be included in the observer panel.

## **Observations at Polling Places**

### Letters of Introduction

Any group or individual desiring to be provided a letter of introduction for presentation to precinct board members at a polling site, may obtain one by providing the Registrar of Voters a signed written request no later than 10 days prior to Election Day. Any requests for polling place location information must be made at the same time

### 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 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 and remote transmission site(s) 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 and remote transmission site(s).

#### Observers May Not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment, sit at the official worktables, or observe from within the “voting area.”
- Converse with voters (within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place), 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, two-way radios, cameras, audio or video recording devices, or camera phones inside the polling place.
- Talk to central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use 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.

## Observations at Central Counting Location

### Check In Procedures

1. All observers must report and sign in daily at the Registrar of Voters front counter located at 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, CA, 92507.
2. An Election Observer Badge will be issued and must be worn at all times.
3. When leaving for the day, please return the badge to the front counter.

### General Rules

1. Observers will be permitted access to a designated observation area, sufficiently close to enable them to observe and challenge whether individuals handling absentee ballots are following established procedures (Elections Code §5104d)
2. No observer shall interfere with the orderly processing of absentee ballot return envelopes or processing and counting of absentee ballots, including touching or handling of the ballots or envelopes. (Elections Code §15104e)
3. Cellular phones, pagers, two-way radios, cameras, audio or video recording devices, or camera phones are not allowed. Pagers and cellular phones must be set to vibrate or off mode while observing the canvass.
4. The individual’s function is to observe that procedures are followed. Observers cannot assist in operations, touch or handle any ballots or other election-related materials.
5. All questions concerning a procedure should be directed to the supervisor or manager of the section only.
6. The number of observers may be limited so as not to interfere with the process. Observers should avoid physical contact with employees.
7. Observers are to hold discussions and conversations outside the designated canvass work areas. Anyone not adhering to these rules will be asked to leave for the day.
8. Observers will be allowed to observe the canvass work areas only when employees are performing canvass operations.
9. Operations will continue as scheduled whether or not an observer is present.

## IV. Mechanism for Feedback

Observers will be given a written overview of processes used in conducting the election and an approximate timeline. Written Guidelines for Observer conduct and instructions on how to ask questions or seek clarification will be included.