



COUNTY OF SUTTER... established 1850

Donna M. Johnston

County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters- Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

ELECTIONS OBSERVATION PANEL PLAN For the November 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

DATE: September 10, 2024

The purpose of an Election Observer Panel pursuant to the California Secretary of State Regulations is to:

1. Provide the public with the opportunity to observe and make suggestions on ways to improve the election process.
2. Help ensure the integrity of the election process.
3. Remove some of the mystery associated with the election process in an effort to build voter confidence and encourage more voter and public participation.

Invitations are sent between E-60 and E-30 to various interested groups to provide an opportunity for observation for those groups or individuals expressing an interest in observing Election Day activities (sample letter attached).

Appointment letters (for introduction to precinct workers) will be prepared after the groups or individuals have provided the names of interested panelist for use when visiting polling places on Election Day. Each panelist will be provided a listing of all polling places within the county for that specific election as well as the central county site location and hours of operation. General Rules which must be followed (attached) will also be provided to observers.

Clerk-Recorder
433 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991
Tel: (530) 822-7134
Fax: (530) 822-7214

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1160 Civic Center Blvd.
Yuba City, CA 95993
Tel: (530) 822-7106
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Registrar of Voters
1435 Veterans Memorial Circle
Yuba City, CA 95993
Tel: (530) 822-7122
Fax: (530) 822-7587

Sample Observation Letter

TO: Sutter County Grand Jury Foreperson
Political Party Central Committee Chairpersons
Sutter County Taxpayers Association President
Sutter Yuba Republican Women President
Feather River Democratic Club President
Interested Parties

RE: Observer Panel and Pre-Logic and Accuracy Testing of Voting Equipment Notice

DATE: November 5, 2024

I am sending this letter to the Sutter County Grand Jury, qualified political parties and other groups or individuals who have expressed an interest in observing election activities to comprise the Election Observer Panel for the Presidential General Election scheduled for November 5, 2024.

Representatives on the panel will be given the opportunity to observe that correct procedures are followed. These include the preparation and operation of the tabulating devices, their programming and testing; the receiving, processing and tallying of all votes cast in the election as well as observing Election Day activities at the polls. The general rules for observers are attached which outlines this function. In addition, any member of the panel is invited to be present during vote by mail ballot processing, counting and the activities associated with the certification of the election.

The preparation of voting machines is scheduled to begin the week of September 23, 2024. The vote by mail ballot processing is scheduled to begin the week of October 7, 2024. As this schedule is subject to change, we recommend you contact our office should you wish to observe any activity to verify the date of the specific process(es) you wish to observe.

Should either you or a representative from your organization wish to observe any or all activities, or have any questions, please contact our office at 530-822-7122.

County and System Information

County: Sutter
Contact: Donna Johnston, Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters
Phone: 530-822-7122
Vendor/System: Dominion Voting Systems/ Democracy Suite 5.10 System

Sincerely,



Donna M. Johnston
Sutter County Clerk-Recorder

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.
- Use an electronic device, including a smartphone, tablet, or other handheld device at a polling place as long as they are not intimidating or dissuading another person from voting.
- View election-related 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 election workers as long as they do not interfere with the conduct of any part of the election process. If questioning disrupts the execution of the duties of the election worker(s), the worker may discontinue responding to questions from that observer. The elections official may designate an election worker to whom an election observer may ask questions.

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.
- Following established county observation rules/policies.
- Being courteous to poll workers and election officials. Speak to them only when it is convenient and does not interfere with the conduct of the election.

Observers may not:

- Interfere, in the judgement of the elections official, with the conduct of the election.
- Physically handle any voting materials, equipment, move/rearrange tables, chairs or voting booths.
- Sit at the official worktables or view confidential voter information on any work terminal or document.
- Communicate 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.
- Directly challenge a voter. Only a member of a precinct board may do so, based on evidence presented.
- Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- Shall not intimidate a voter by means of photographing, video recording, or otherwise recording a voter entering or exiting a polling place, or at the central count location.
- Talk to or attempt to stop the poll or the central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use the elections officials' phones, computers or any other polling place equipment at polling places or the central counting site.
- Make physical contact of any kind with election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polling place or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place or the central counting site.
- Prevent other observers from observing materials or a process.
- Enter secure areas without express permission of the elections official.
- Enter any area other than an identified observation area without the express permission of the elections official.