



Amador County Election Observer Policies and Procedures

For the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election

The public is welcome to observe Election procedures but must strictly adhere to the policies outlined below to protect voter privacy, prevent voter intimidation at vote centers, and maintain the health and well-being of all voters.

COVID-19 Restrictions

- Maintain social distancing at all times, with a minimum of 6 feet between yourself and voters/staff.
- Face covering **MUST** be worn at all times while in the elections office or at a vote center.
- Refrain from touching **ANYTHING** to prevent contamination.
- Hand sanitizer and gloves will be available at all voting locations for your use.

Check In Procedures

- All observers must report and sign in daily at the Elections Office front counter located at 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642.
- An Election Observer Badge will be issued and must be worn at all times.
- When leaving for the day, please return the badge to the front counter.

General Rules

- Please be courteous to our vote center workers as they are typically working several long days and are doing their very best.
- Remain quiet and do not disturb workers or voters.
- Allow workers reasonable space to conduct election procedures.

Videotaping or Photography (CA Elections Code § 18540, 18541, 18370, 14221, 14291)

- Members of the public may take photographs or videotape from inside the vote center before the polls open and after the polls close.
- Members of the public may only take photographs or videotape inside the vote center while the polls are open provided no voters are present in the polls and the activity does not interfere with vote center worker operations.
- Cell phones may not be used inside of the vote center, except for an emergency unless a vote center worker is using a cell phone in the conduction of County of Amador Elections business.

Media (CA Elections Code § 18540, 18541, 18370, 14221, 14291)

Media may take photos or video near the vote center during voting hours, as well as interview voters (with their permission) about the election outside the vote center.

Media must:

- Provide media credentials and obtain worker and voter permission before any photography or videotaping can be allowed during voting hours.
- Preserve the secrecy of all ballots while in the vote center to protect voter privacy and prevent voter intimidation.
- Conduct exit polls no less than 25 feet from the entrance to the poll.
- Not interfere with the voting process or vote center worker operations.



Poll Watchers (CA Elections Code § 14221, 14223, 18370, 18541, 18543)

Poll Watchers are responsible for:

- Checking in at each site, whether vote center or elections office.
- Wearing an identification badge.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the election process.

Poll Watchers may observe the:

- Roster of voters at the convenience of the vote center workers.
- Street index.
- Procedures for opening the polls.
- Voting procedures during early voting and Election Day.
- Closing procedures.

Poll Watchers may not:

- Interfere with the voting process or with vote center worker operations.
- Photograph or videotape inside the vote center while the polls are open and while voters are present in the polls.
- Photograph, videotape, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting the vote center.
- Touch any voting materials such as ballots or rosters.
- Sit at the vote center worktable or view confidential voter information on any work terminal.
- Discuss any ballot or political issues.
- Be in the area where voters are casting their ballots.
- Place a sign relating to a voter's qualifications or speak to a voter about his or her qualifications to vote.

Electioneering (CA Elections Code § 18370, 18541, 18546)

Definition: Campaigning, making speeches, passing out campaign literature, or doing anything that could be seen as promoting a particular candidate or measure 100 feet or less from the entrance to the poll. Electioneering is a misdemeanor offense.

Members of the public may not:

- Engage in electioneering as defined.
- Pass around petitions, put up political signs about how to vote on a measure, or try to influence a voter within the 100 feet limit.
- Wear campaign related items, including hats, shirts, or label buttons within 100 feet from the entrance to the polling place (vote center). Observers who violate this rule will be asked to remove or cover these items before entering the poll.
- Remove a political sign on private property within the 100 feet limit, unless the owner agrees to take it down.