



Clackamas County Elections Observer Policy

Clackamas County Elections welcomes observers. It is important to us that all citizens feel confident in the process, feel welcome to come watch for themselves and ask questions. Below is a list of our expectations for observers to keep our observation area pleasant for all and comply with State laws.

1. Observers will act in a professional manner.
2. Observers will not interfere with the activities of elections workers.
3. Observers will respect the privacy of voters seeking assistance from the Elections office.
4. Observers will not instigate or intervene in conversations with seasonal Elections staff and voters.
5. Observers will address all questions to the County Clerk or Elections Supervisors.
6. Observers will comply with the directions of the County Clerk or Elections Supervisors.
7. Observers are allowed only in areas designated by the County Clerk, and may be asked to leave so that others wishing to observe the elections process may do so. Space is limited to 6 (six) observers in the front lobby and 20 (twenty) in the hallway outside the ballot processing areas.
8. Observers may stand, or remain seated, at either the office or processing area observer locations but must remain within the designated observer area (or the hallway) and must not move any chairs.
9. Observers will not wear badges or insignia identifying a political party, candidate, or organization.
10. Observers may not handle any ballots or elections materials. Per ORS 260.695, no electioneering is allowed within 100 feet of any entrance to the elections building.
11. Observers are not allowed to take pictures or video inside the Elections building. Observers taking pictures or video will receive one warning and then be asked to leave if they continue. If phone calls are necessary, observers must leave the observation area to the lobby or outside to take the call. Cell phone ringers must be OFF.
12. Weapons of any kind are not allowed in the Elections Office, with the exception of those belonging to authorized law enforcement officers or security personnel. Concealed weapons permits do not apply.
13. Observers will use the public restrooms located in the Elections front lobby. After 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, observers must be escorted to the public restrooms.
14. No food or beverages, with the exception of bottled water, are allowed in any observation area.

Observers must agree to follow the rules outlined above. **Violation of any rule contained in this policy will result in removal from the premises, and may also result in criminal and/or civil penalties as provided in ORS 260.993 and ORS 260.995.**

Thank you for participating in this process. Public access to observation areas is an important component of vote-by-mail elections.