



Paid Observer Program

1. This Paid Observer Program is a program for all elections. The observer program is subject to modification at the discretion of the Elections Division.
2. The Elections Division encourages the two local major political parties (Democratic and Republican) and the local League of Women Voters to provide observers to view all aspects of onsite ballot processing during an Election. The paid observer program is eligible only to these political or non-partisan groups.
3. The Observer's Mission Statement is:
"To provide an independent observation and maintain confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the election process."
4. Each group of observers is requested to designate an Observer Coordinator.
 - a. This individual coordinates the observers in their group, ensuring they are available for all shifts. Up to 6 people from each group is recommended to be on the list for potential shifts. Each shift will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
 - b. The Observer Coordinator will receive a stipend of \$250.00 per election, provided all specific shifts are filled, and important election events are attended, all of which are identified before each election.
 - c. A preliminary schedule of assignments must be provided by Observer Coordinator no later than the date Military and Overseas ballots are mailed.
5. Only one observer per shift per group will receive a stipend of of \$50/day (or \$25 per 4 hour shift) and be allowed inside the ballot processing area. Additional observers are welcomed but will view the processes from outside of the fenced area. Additional observers are not eligible for stipends.
6. All stipends paid to the Observer Coordinator and observers will be subject to any taxes and reporting as may be required by the law.
7. If a scheduled observer does not show up for a shift the Elections Division will still continue on with their scheduled daily work. Group can substitute assigned observer by notifying the Elections Manager.

8. All observers must attend annual training.
9. All observers will be required to wear a badge while observing.
10. Any observer questions should be directed to the Elections Manager or the Election Systems Supervisor.
11. Observers are not permitted to:
 - a. Talk or touch workers while work is in progress
 - b. Discuss election procedures with workers (refer questions to Elections Manager or Election Systems Supervisor)
 - c. Touch ballots or equipment
 - d. Do not touch supplies or stored items on the storage side of suite 100. Only assigned lockers and locks are allowable.
 - e. Sit on tables or equipment
 - f. Use cell phones, laptops, take notes (concerns should be logged on designated clip board), photos/videos, or record audio. Cell phones are not allowed inside the ballot processing center. You have the option of having a locker assigned to you to store your personal items.
 - g. Participate in campaign or political conversations or distribute materials
 - h. Be inside the caged portion of the tabulation area
 - i. Carry or have on said person any weapons, pursuant to RCW 9.41
12. All observers are subject to the provisions of the Observer Guide and any laws, rules or policies and procedures of the County, State or Federal government as it relates to the observation of the election processes. If any of the observer rules are to be broken, the observer may be asked to leave and removed from the observer program.