# POLITICAL OBSERVER PROTOCOL

Arizona law allows for a political observer to be appointed by the county chairman of each political party that has a candidate on the ballot, one per Vote Center. Cochise County Elections Department has established these Vote Center protocols for party observers. This is to ensure that any questions or issues that may occur on Election Day are able to be handled quickly and efficiently, and that the voting process be disturbed as little as possible. We appreciate your following these rules.

## POLITICAL APPOINTMENT (A.R.S.§16-590)

If you have been appointed as a Political Observer, you must have an original letter signed by the County Chairman of your political party and the County Election Official confirming your appointment. We cannot accept copies. This letter must be presented to the Inspector of the Election Board of the Vote Center(s) you are assigned. Inspectors will also ask to see proof of identification and photo ID.

## QUESTIONS / CONCERNS CONTACT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cochise County Elections Department at 520-432-8970. On Election Day, please contact the Election Central Call Center at 1-888-316-8065.

## THE INSPECTOR

The Inspector of the Election Board is your only point of contact at the Vote Center. The Inspector is in charge of the Vote Center and has the responsibility to keep the election process running smoothly and without disruption. Please help the Inspector by keeping your questions to a minimum.

## VOTE CENTER ETIQUETTE

Vote Centers can be very crowded, therefore, we ask that you conduct your observing as quietly as possible. If there is already a representative from your party at a Vote Center then one of you will need to leave, as only one per party is allowed.

## 75 FOOT LIMIT (A.R.S.§16-515)

No person shall be allowed to remain inside these limits while the polls are open, except for the purpose of voting, and except the election officials, one representative at any one time of each political party represented on the ballot who has been appointed by the county chairman of such political party, and the challengers allowed by law. Voters having cast their ballots shall at once retire without the seventy-foot limit. A person violating any provision of this notice is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor. The Marshal is responsible for ensuring that only authorized persons are in the Vote Center.

## CENTRAL COUNT FACILITY

Political Observers may be present during significant activities at a central count facility, Elections Dept. or the Recorder's Office during regular business hours when voted ballots are present. Under State law, a live camera feed is provided on the county website during times ballots are in the tabulation room when conducting a statewide election. You may view this live feed from any location offsite: Cochise.az.gov/elections

Central county facility (Elections) will be open during receiving ballots and/or electronic media on election night only.

There are no public restrooms in the central county facility and food and drink is not permitted. Observers are not authorized to wear any political attire or clothing inside the 75’ limit.

## “DO’S AND DON’TS” FOR THE POLITICAL OBSERVER

**DO** - Present your letter to the Inspector upon arrival.

**DO** - Be careful not to disrupt the election process.

**DO** - Call the Election Central Call Center directly at 1-888-316-8065 with any questions or comments.

**DON’T** – Wear any political attire or clothing within the 75’ limit. ARS 16-515(F)

**DON’T** - Talk to the voters while they are within 75 feet of the Vote Center.

**DON’T** - Ask questions of or talk to the election workers. The election workers are present to assist the voters.

**DON’T** - Enter a voting booth, unless you are entering the voting booth to cast your own ballot.

**DON’T** - Touch the ballots or any voting equipment.

**DON’T** - Use your cell phone or any other electronic device while in the Vote Center. Step outside the voting area to make a call.

**DON’T** – Eat or drink inside the Vote Center while observing.

The Inspector of the Election Board will ask you to leave the Vote Center if any of these rules are not followed. All voters, candidates, workers, property owners and the public deserve courtesy and respect.

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Cochise County Elections, 1415 Melody Lane, Building A, Bisbee, Arizona 85603  www.cochise.az.gov  520-432-8970  Toll Free Number: 1-888-316-8065