



Yamhill County Elections

Observer Policy

We believe voter confidence in elections comes from making the process as transparent as possible. We also realize that we must assure that sensitive materials and ballots are always safeguarded throughout the process. An orderly procedure for the election is paramount. Under Oregon law you are not an active participant in this process. You are a public observer. As a result, we have compiled this policy as a balance between the need for observation and the need to conduct the election safely.

1. Observers are prohibited from interfering with any election process and must avoid disrupting Elections Division staff. To avoid disrupting elections staff, a single point person should compile questions and concerns for review with the elections division staff member assigned to assist them. Depending on the complexity or nature of a question, staff may request that an observer submit the questions, in writing, to be answered later. Email any questions or requests to elections@yamhillcounty.gov and a response will be given within 24 hours.
2. Observers will be permitted access to an observation area from which they may observe the process and take notes via closed circuit cameras. Due to space issues, no more than six observers will be allowed to observe at any one time. Additional observers require prior approval from the County Clerk. Each day, prior to entering the observation area, all observers must:
 - Report and sign-in daily. The observer agreement must be signed daily before entering the observer area, failure to comply will result in immediate removal from the premises. For security purposes each observer will sign in and out daily.
 - Wear an Official Observer badge at all times. If you are representing a particular candidate or political party, we must have authorization in writing for you from that party or candidate (ORS 254.482).
 - No electronic devices of any kind are allowed to be used in observer areas. Phone calls must be taken outside of the building. Cell phone ringers must be turned OFF.
 - Weapons of any kind are prohibited in the Elections Office, with the exception of those belonging to authorized law enforcement officers or security personnel. Concealed weapon permits do not apply.
3. While in the designated observation area observers are prohibited from:
 - Interfering with movement of regular county business or staff.
 - Limit talking. Observers shall keep conversations at a low volume and only with election division staff.
 - Using electronic or audio/visual recording devices including, but not limited to cell phone, laptop, tablets, still or video cameras and DAT recorders. (Texting is also prohibited.)
 - Engaging in loud, boisterous, or otherwise disruptive conversations. Conversations shall be kept to a minimum and any conversation deemed necessary needs to be at a low enough volume to minimize distraction or disruptions to Elections Division staff and others observing.
4. Due to limited space, you may be asked to leave the observer area to allow for others to observe.
5. Any observer who fails to adhere to these rules will be asked to leave the premises.
6. When leaving for the day, return your badge and sign out.

Violation of these rules may result in removal from the premises and may result in criminal and/or civil penalties as provided for in ORS 260.993 and ORS 260.995.

Thank you for your cooperation!