



## ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
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(520) 724-6830 FAX (520) 724-6870

Chair Jo Holt  
Pima County Democratic Party

Chair Bill Beard  
Pima County Republican Party

Chair Mike Cease  
Pima County Green Party

Chair Ted Glenn  
Pima County Libertarian Party

September 26, 2016

Re: Election Day Observers – November 8, 2016

Dear Party Chairs:

As election day draws ever closer it might prove beneficial to discuss the topic of Election Observers. Observers serve as your party's witness to the proceedings at the polls and other areas where ballots are handled.

Here are a few rules/highlights pertaining to Observers:

- By statute, only County Party Chairs, that have candidates on the ballot, may appoint Observers. Appointments must be in writing and reflect the appointees name and the precinct(s) where they are appointed to observe. An appointment is not transferable to another individual. Candidates cannot be Observers.
- Appointments must be printed on County Party letterhead and reflect the signature of the Chair.
- Parties must provide the County Election Department with a list of appointed Observers and associated precincts by no later than 5PM on November 4, 2016. An appointee must be reflected on the list in order to be authenticated. Any appointee not on the list will not be permitted to observe.
- No more than one Observer per Party may be in the polling place at one time.
- An Observer may be appointed to observe in more than one location. Observers who are appointed to observe in multiple locations need only one appointment in writing designating the various precincts where the Chair desires observation.

- Observers at the polls must immediately present the written appointment to the election board upon entering the polling place. The election board will return the appointment to the Observer after authenticating the document. Observers may be present during the opening and closing of the polls.
- Observers are prohibited from wearing apparel or paraphernalia that supports the election or defeat of any candidate, political party or ballot proposition.
- The Inspector will direct the Observer where they may position themselves within the polling place. Observers must not sit at the tables with the election board.
- Observers may not touch or handle election materials, rosters, ballots, mail ballot envelopes, provisional ballot envelopes, voting machines, or machine components.
- Observers may not interfere with or impede the election procedures or staff. If an Observer has a question about the proceedings, the Observer should communicate the question to the polling place Inspector and the Inspector should respond in a timely and reasonable manner. An Observer that does interfere/impede procedures may be ejected.
- Observers must not use a mobile phone or other electronic device to make or receive a call, nor take or record pictures, video, or audio inside any polling location. Phone calls must be taken/made outside of the 75 ft. limit. Observers may use an electronic device inside the polling place to take notes pertaining to their observations.
- Observers may not talk to voters while in the polling place or within 75 ft. of the polling place.
- Observers can enter and leave a polling place as long as their entering and leaving does not interfere with or impede the election procedures or staff.

Hope this information helps. Please contact me with any questions. I am at your service.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad R. Nelson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad R. Nelson, Director