

FAQs: Election Observers & Troubleshooting the February Primary

Q: I see that video and still cameras are not allowed by observers. Would this include a smart phone? And how do you practically enforce this?

A: Observers may not take photographs. If an election inspector views such activity, issue a warning. If the activity continues, consider the order for removal (GAB-110).

Q: We had one problem and had to ask the observer to leave. We noted everything on the Inspector's Statement.

A: You should also document the order on the GAB-110. The observer is issued the original and a copy is sent to the GAB and retained by the clerk.

Q: Do we have to have a minimum square footage for observers to occupy? Currently with our room arrangement we have seating for three observers at a time.

A: There is no space requirement. If space is limited and you have more than three observers, rotate the seating based on the number of observers, organizations, etc.

Q: It was stated in previous webinars that the proof of identification picture guide was all inclusive. The first slide says that it is not.

A: It was never presented that way. It can't possibly list all of the military IDs, university IDs or tribal IDs, for example. It does represent all of the categories of acceptable proof of identification.

Q: Who gets the original GAB-110 and who gets a copy?

A: The observer ordered to leave the polling place gets the original. The clerk should keep a copy and send a copy to the GAB.

Q: Is the issue of being able to accept a veteran's affairs card being discussed?

A: It's a provision of SB 295, coming up. This bill is expected to be signed into law on March 16, 2016 and this provision will apply to the April election.

Q: Under POR, you do allow a photocopy verifying residence, correct? Is the same true for POI? Can someone bring a photocopy versus the actual ID? Thanks!

A: A voter can provide a copy of proof of residence, but when voting in-person must provide the proof of identification document.

Q: Can you explain why? For example, I am able to accept a photocopy of POI for an absentee voter so why am I not able to do the same for someone voting in person? Thanks for clarifying!

A: It's the law.

Q: Do observers have to leave the polling place before speaking with voters?

A: Yes, conversations or offers of assistance should be taken away from the polling area.

Q: What would you do if an observer challenges almost every voter? Where do you draw the line?

A: Has this happened? Every challenge must have cause or reason for it. It's unlikely an observer will have a reason for each one. The chief inspector must decide what is reasonable. It may fall into disruptive activity and the chief will issue a warning.

Q: is clothing allowed that says "vote blue" etc.

A: Contact our office if you encounter such a situation.

Q: Is a hole punched or ID that has VOID valid or not?

A: Yes, if the expiration date is still visible.

Q: What if a voter does not want their photo taken (or videotaped)?

A: If a voter objects, the chief inspector should inform the media and the voter should not have their picture or video taken.

Q: We followed the written category list for POI as put forth by the GAB and what needs to be included on it. The ID did not have an expiration date and the GAB still allowed it. How can we train election inspectors to follow the law when it is always up to interpretation?

A: Which ID? Some military IDs and tribal IDs do not have expiration dates, so they can be accepted.

Q: by no video/still camera use allowed...does that include no photos to be taken by cell phones?

A: Observers cannot take photographs.