

Citizen Election Observers (CEO) Guide

San Diego
February 2008

BALLOT STATEMENT / CERTIFICATE OF ROSTER -- FILL IN ALL BLANKS WITH A NUMBER OR A ZERO
FOLLOW DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM AS OUTLINED IN THE ELECTION MANUAL

	ASP	DEM	GRN	LIB	PMF	REP	NP	TOTAL
1. NUMBER OF BALLOTS RECEIVED (Hand count before Election Day)								
2. NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS (Hand count Election Night)								
3. NUMBER OF VOTED BALLOTS - from ballot box								
4. NUMBER OF VOTED BALLOTS IN PEACH PROVISIONAL ENVELOPES (from ballot box). Do not include MAIL BALLOT WITHOUT ENVELOPE - provisionals - DO NOT OPEN ENVELOPES								
5. NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS (voter made mistake or damaged - from ballot box)								
6. TOTAL - ADD LINES 2, 3, 4 & 5 (The TOTAL entered on line 6 should match the TOTAL entered on line 1)								

BALLOTS

7. HOW MANY SIGNATURES ARE IN THE ROSTER ON:
 A. THE BLUE ROSTER PAGES (IF INCLUDED) 9. TOUCHSCREENS BEING USED FOR BALLOTS CAST FROM THE TOUCHSCREEN BELOW
 B. THE WHITE ROSTER PAGES(S)
 C. THE PINK ROSTER PAGES(S)
 D. THE PEACH ROSTER PAGES(S)

DOES THIS MATCH THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON LINE 7A? YES NO
 If NO, please tell us why they do not match:

ROSTER

E. ADD LINES A, B, C, & D TOTAL SIGNATURES

WE CERTIFY that the number of signatures on line 7a is the number of signatures in this roster of voters. All voters whose signatures appear in this roster voted today except where noted. This list of voters constitutes the roster for this precinct for this election. The total number of official ballots received and the number accounted for is as indicated on the ballot statement. The assisted voters list and the challenged list show a complete list of all voters assisted or challenged.

CERTIFICATION

ALL BOARD MEMBERS MUST SIGN BELOW

PRECINCT INSPECTOR _____
 ASSISTANT INSPECTOR _____
 TOUCHSCREEN INSPECTOR _____
 CLERK _____
 CLERK _____
 CLERK _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

	ASP	DEM	GRN	LIB	PMF	REP	NP	TOTAL
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								

BALLSTAT 208



A Step-by-Step Guide for Documenting the Election Process

The Ballot Statement & Other Important Forms

Poll workers are required to complete several forms on Election Day. Tell poll workers that you want to copy of (or photograph) the Ballot Statement Form (above) which will be completed after the poll closes. Review other forms on the Psephos web site at:

http://psephos-us.org/Documents/ep_forms.pdf

ROV hotline number: 800-696-0136



Why Be A Citizen Election Observer (CEO)?

CEOs are critical to our elections process

You have the legal right under Elections Code Section 2300 to observe the entire elections process. If someone attempts to restrict your rights call the Registrar of Voters at **800-696-0136**. Each item in this guide is intended to help you document your poll watching activities. Your presence is critical to:

- Ensure transparency and verifiability in our elections
- Create evidence for an election contest, if justified
- Reinvigorate citizens' control of elections which are our only legitimate means to prevent the abuse of power

CEOs bring the Voters Bill of Rights to life, protecting our

- Right to observe the entire elections process
- Right to have questions answered by local election officials, or be directed to the appropriate official for an answer
- Right to report any illegal or fraudulent activity to a local elections official or the Secretary of State

NOTE If persistent questioning disrupts their duties, election officials may discontinue responding to your questions.

Managing Perceptions

CEOs like you will bring democracy back to life by reasserting citizens' control of their elections. Even as election integrity groups work toward restoring the hand count of paper ballots in the precincts, you can make a big difference by demonstrating that democracy in the United States is vibrant and alive. Keep in mind, however, that no guide can cover every possible situation. CEOs must exercise good judgment and take initiative while remaining flexible, patient, and vigilant.

Always treat poll workers with respect and expect the same from them. If your efforts to document the election undermine lawful acts required to administer the election, then our efforts will be self-defeating. Avoid creating a continuing distraction that interferes with the voting process.

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Phase VI: Diebold GEMS Central Tabulator

The Diebold Global Election Management System (GEMS), or "central tabulator" is a desktop computer located at the ROV headquarters in a secure room with observation windows.



In spite of the secrecy of the GEMS vote count you can still document:

- Names and positions of persons who enter the counting room
- Whether you can read the computer screens
- Whether you can see everything in the room
- Whether there is a direct or wireless connection to the Internet
- Whether anyone working for a vendor touches the tabulator
- Interim results: Collect each interim results report and *keep it*, especially if election officials try to collect the reports or ask for them back, or if they say there is an error on the reports
- Chain of custody when things are moved from place to place
- The time and circumstances if you see conferences or huddles (Note: Some elections offices use a "wrangler" who will attempt to distract observers during time periods when there are significant problems.)
- Results for a candidate go down when more votes come in

Visit Psephos at www.psephos-us.org
Donate to Psephos at <http://psephos-us.org/donate.html>

ROV hotline number: 800-696-0136

Phase V: The Canvass

Precinct Ballots

- Observe the arrival of the ballot boxes. Document any boxes being delivered with seals that have been compromised.
- Observe the remaking of the paper trails from the voting machines to scannable paper ballots.
- Memory cards from the precinct voting machines are not to be read by the central tabulator. The paper trail is going to be re-made on a regular ballot and counted by scanner.

Ballot Scanning

When paper ballots are read by scanners the elections process is no longer transparent and verifiable, and is, therefore, secret. The memory cards are removed and processed by the central tabulator (GEMS). In spite of the secrecy of the vote count, you can still document the following:

- Cards won't upload
- Machines break down
- Results don't match each other
- Results for a candidate go down when more votes come in
- Negative votes or machines count backwards
- Things don't add up
- There are more votes than voters
- Votes show up in precincts with no registered voters
- The chain of custody of the memory cards from the scanner to the GEMS central tabulator
- Whether scanners are networked to the central tabulator



California Secretary of State Debra Bowen decertified San Diego's Diebold touch screens. Each precinct should have only one machine for use primarily by disabled voters.

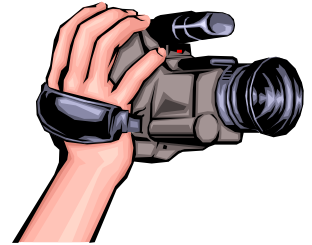
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Tips on Documentation

You have a legal right under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution to document the election. Since the documentation you gather may be used as evidence in a court of law, stay focused on facts, not anecdotes. Remember to:

- Take enough paper and a pen or pencil
- Write down the precinct number(s) where you observe
- Write down names of poll workers where you observe

See http://www.psephos-us.org/ep_documenting_elections.html concerning the use of photography in elections. You are not permitted to photograph voters at the polls, without their consent, if the intent is to dissuade a person from voting. The act of marking and casting a ballot is protected by privacy rights. Exercise good judgment while documenting elections.



Additional Resources

This guide covers basic information to get you started. There are many additional resources to consult including:

- ◆ **Black Box Voting**
<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/toolkit.html>
- ◆ **California Elections Code** <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=elec&codebody=&hits=20>
- ◆ **California Election Protection Network**
<http://www.califelectprotect.net/>
- ◆ **California Secretary of State**
http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_bp.htm
- ◆ **San Diego Registrar of Voters**
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/voters/Eng/Eindex.html>
- ◆ **Secure Accurate Elections** <http://secureelections.org/>

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Phase I: Opening the Polls

Try to get to the polls before they open. Document the following :

- Time that the polling place opens
- Time that the seal log is signed and in order
- The red seal is on the memory card of the voting machine
- Ballots have been properly accounted for
- The first voter verifies that the ballot box is empty and the box is properly sealed
- The polling place is free from signs or other undue influences such as groups representing religious or political beliefs

PSEPHOS BELIEVES PAPER RULES!!

To sign a petition supporting the *hand count of paper ballots at California precincts* go here

[http://www.PetitionOnline.com/
Psephos1/petition.html](http://www.PetitionOnline.com/Psephos1/petition.html)



Phase II: The Voting Process

Chain of custody is the most critical aspect of elections. Note and report any activity that threatens the integrity of the ballot box or machines. Document the following:

- Onsite maintenance or replacement of voting machines
- Eligible voters wrongfully asked for ID or turned away
- Seals on the ballot box or voting machine are removed, tampered with, or compromised. **Report this immediately to the ROV hotline at 800-696-0136**

ROV hotline number: 800-696-0136

Phase III: Closing the Polls

You have a right to observe the closing of the polls and the reconciliation process. If you are asked to leave state firmly that you are exercising your right to observe. Call the Registrar of Voters hotline 800-696-0136, if needed, to have poll workers instructed to re-open the polling place. Document the following:

- The # of ballots cast and the poll book record # of voters who were issued a ballot — you can use the Ballot Statement form (on the back cover of this guide) or photograph the Ballot Statement form completed by poll workers
- Whether all ballots, whether cast, spoiled, surrendered, or not cast are accounted for
- The ballots are resealed into the ballot box for transportation. Once sealed, all seals must remain intact

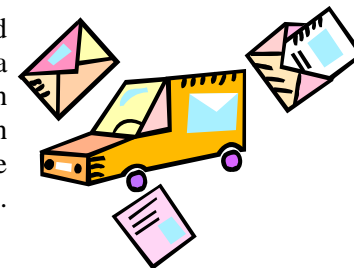
Visit the Psephos web site to review all forms at
http://www.psephos-us.org/Documents/ep_forms.pdf

Phase IV: Transporting the Ballots

From the polling places, boxes and machines go to a truck waiting at a regional collection center, and then to ROV headquarters. No person should have access to the secure area of the truck during transport.

Document the following:

- Chain of custody, following the poll workers who transport the ballots to the regional collection center
- Any detours or stops along the way where ballots could be tampered with
- If all precincts are accounted for before trucks leave
- If anyone has access to the truck during transport
- If any precinct attempts to transport ballots directly to the Registrar of Voters (report the precinct number)



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