



# Election Observers

*November 2022*

# Observers

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Anyone, other than a candidate on the ballot, may be an observer at the polls during voting hours.



# Observer Area

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- ★ 6 to 8 feet from activity being observed
- ★ Painter's tape used to mark boundaries at 6 a.m.



# Observation Hours

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- ★ From 7 a.m. until election officials finish closing the polls

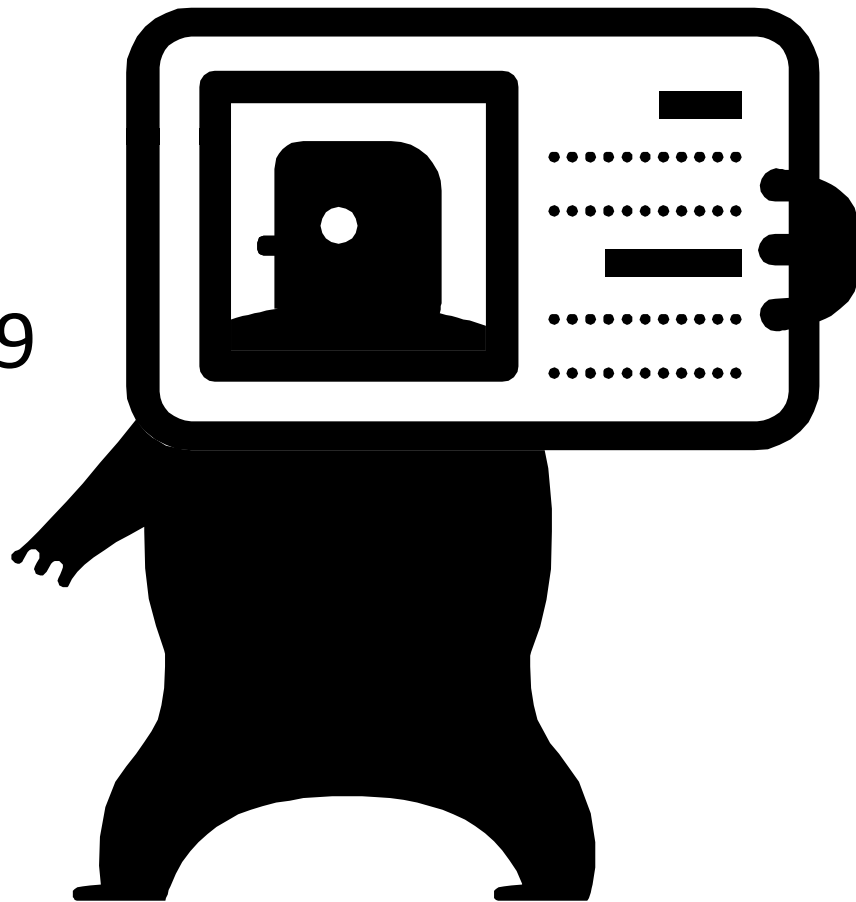


Jeff Miller

# Check-In

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- ★ Present photo ID
- ★ Complete and sign  
Observer Log EL-109
  - ★ Printed name
  - ★ Address
  - ★ Affiliation



# Observer Receives

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- ★ Name tag to be worn inside polling place at all times
- ★ Observer Rules-at-a-Glance brochure



# Rules of Conduct

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- ★ May only address Chief or designee
- ★ May not interact with voters, except when requested by voter
- ★ Must stay in designated area



# Limited Space

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- ★ Chief may limit the number of observers representing one organization/candidate if there isn't enough room for everyone to socially distance







# Voter Privacy

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- ★ May not see how someone is marking their ballot
- ★ No hovering by voting booths or tabulator – may observe public aspects of voting process



# Curbside Voters

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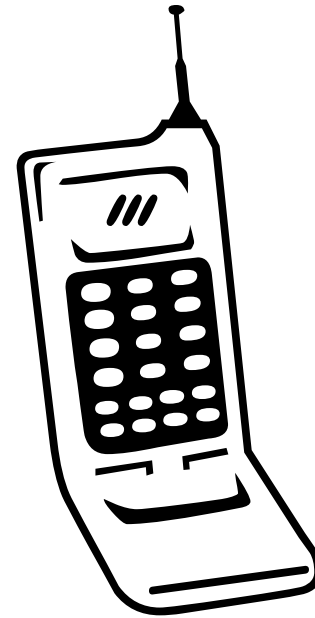
- ★ May not enter voter's vehicle



# No Cell Phone Conversations

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- ★ Text messages are OK
- ★ Other silent usage of cell phone is OK



# Photography or Video

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- ★ May not photograph/videotape voters or poll workers while polls are open for voting
- ★ May take pictures after polls close, if not disruptive



# May Not View Documents with Personally Identifiable Information

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- ★ Voter registration application forms
- ★ Proof of address
- ★ Voter ID
- ★ Ineligible List
- ★ Observer Log



# Observing the Process

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- ★ Offers to help will be declined
- ★ May only observe



# Questions or Issues

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- ★ Talk to Chief Inspector first
- ★ No yelling in the polling place
- ★ False reports to Clerk's Office affect credibility



Chief Inspector



# No Political Discussions

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- ★ No conversations about candidates, political parties, or referenda
- ★ No clothing or buttons related to candidates, political parties or referenda

# Disruptions

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- ★ Disruptions are always prohibited
- ★ Whether something is disruptive is at the discretion of the Chief Inspector



# No Frivolous Challenges

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- ★ Way voter looks
- ★ Language voter speaks
- ★ Home in foreclosure
- ★ Vehicle in which voter arrives at the polls



# One Warning from Chief

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- ★ Disruptive
- ★ Threaten orderly conduct of election
- ★ Interfere with voting process
- ★ Fail to follow observer rules



# Observers Ordered to Leave

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_, WI  
Municipality name  
(Indicate Town, Village or City, i.e., "Town of Leeds")

**Order to Leave Polling Place, Clerk's Office, or Alternate Absentee Ballot Site**

\_\_\_\_\_  
name of observer

\_\_\_\_\_  
organization, if any

The observer listed above, is hereby ordered, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.41(3), to leave the polling place, clerk's office, or alternate absentee ballot site immediately for the reason(s) described below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of chief inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of inspector

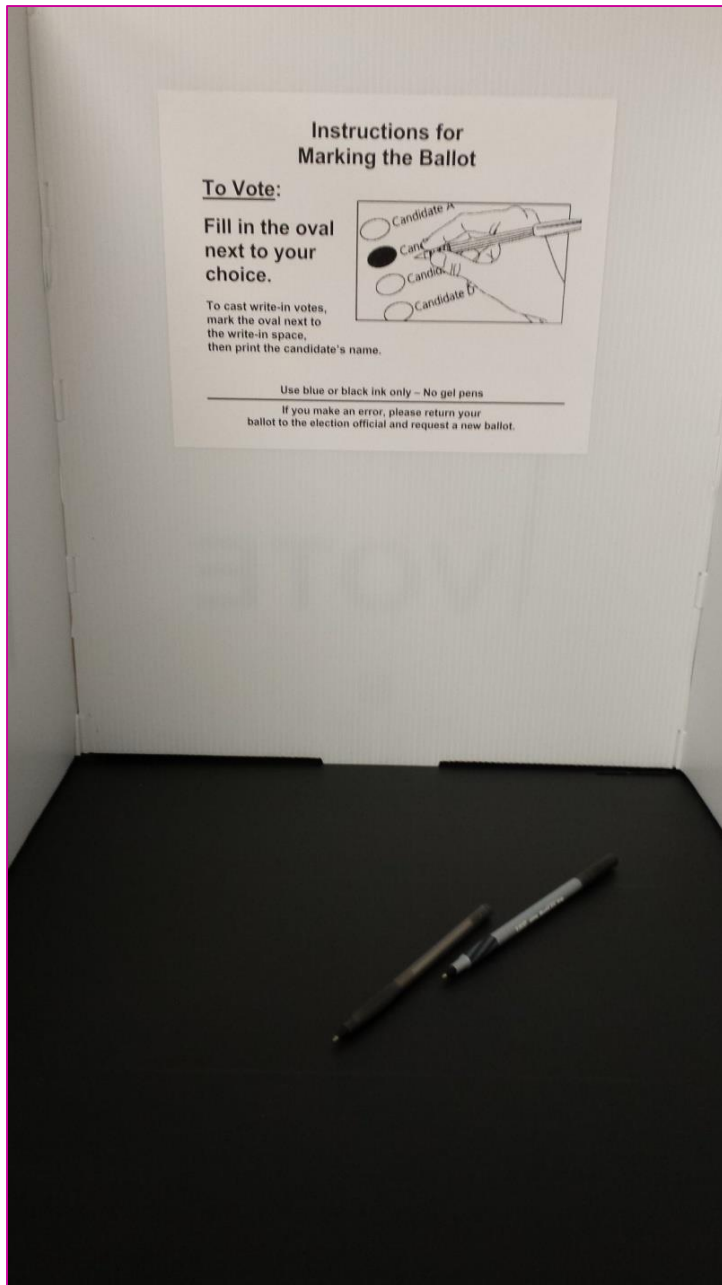
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of chief inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of inspector

A copy of this document is required to be filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission within 7 days of the incident.

EL-419 | 2014-07 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7084, Madison, WI 53707-7084  
608-205-8005 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

- ★ Order to Leave Polling Place form
- ★ May not observe at any other polling location on Election Day



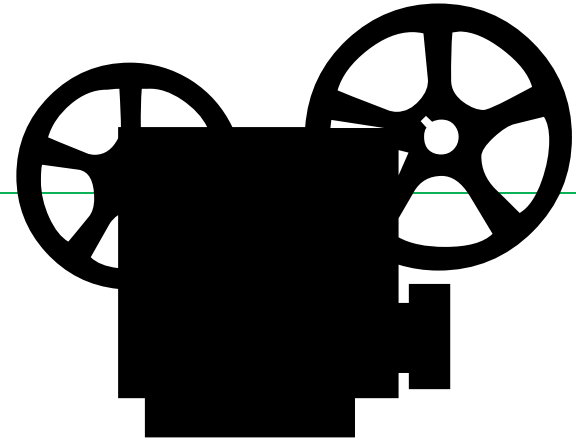
# Elected Officials

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Elected officials are not exempt from observer rules

# Media

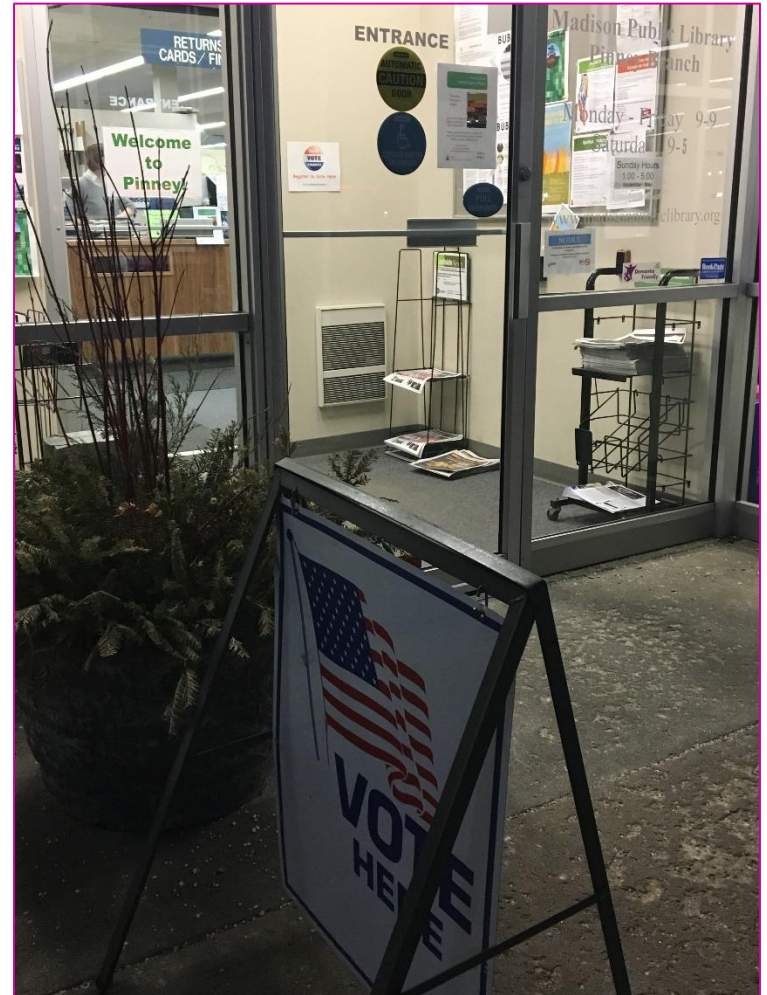
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- ★ Check in with Chief
- ★ May take photos or video
  - ★ May not be disruptive
  - ★ Need permission of those they are filming or photographing
  - ★ May not show how someone voted

# Closing the Polls

- ★ Open meeting
- ★ Anyone, including candidates, may observe
- ★ Observers may take photos or video if not disruptive
- ★ May request a copy of results tape





# Beginner Training for Poll Workers

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- ★ Observers welcome to audit training
- ★ 10 a.m. Monday, November 7, via Zoom



# Contacts

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- ★ City Clerk's Office

- ★ Talk to Chief Inspector first

- ★ 608-266-4601

- ★ City Attorney's Office

- ★ City Attorney Mike Haas

- 608-266-6598

- ★ Assistant City Attorney Steve Brist

- 608-267-4926