

Several kinds of groups conduct election observation in the U.S. The most common group of observers in states are partisan observers, often referred to as poll watchers or challengers, that represent political parties, candidates, or groups in favor of or against a ballot proposition.

Another group of observers are nonpartisan observers, who are trained by U.S nonpartisan organizations and not associated with organized political parties. Nonpartisan observers work to protect the integrity of the electoral process and advance electoral quality and accountability regardless of the political outcome.

This document gives a state by state examination of U.S nonpartisan observers, including their level of access to observe the electoral process in each state, and whether any special accommodations have been made to ensure observer access in light of the covid-19 pandemic. It notes when certain aspects of the voting process are held in public and therefore accessible to all interested parties, when access is limited to partisan observers, and when nonpartisan observers are able to observe.

In this document, pre-election day processes include activities that occur before election day to prepare for the voting process, most notably the logic and accuracy testing of voting equipment.

In-person voting addresses the ability for observers to be present at physical voting locations, including election day and during the early voting period (if applicable).

Absentee ballot processing and counting addresses the ability for observers to be present when absentee/mailed ballots are received, signatures on envelopes are verified, and other activities that occur to prepare absentee ballots for counting, as well as the process of counting these ballots.

Post-election processes include the ability for observers the tabulation of ballots, the canvass, postelection audits and recounts.

The section on special accommodations or restrictions due to the pandemic includes any special accommodations that states are making to ensure the transparency of the voting process, such as livestreaming certain aspects of a process that is usually held in public. It also includes additional restrictions that are in place for observers, such as limiting the number of individuals in a polling location.

Click on your state to jump directly to information about it.

Alabama	
Alaska	4
Arizona	5
Arkansas	5
California	6
Colorado	7

Connecticut	8
Delaware	8
District of Columbia	9
Rorida	10
Georgia	10
Hawaii	11
Idaho	12
Illinois	12
Indiana	13
lowa	14
Kansas	14
Kentucky	15
Louisiana	15
Maine	16
Maryland	17
Massachusetts	18
Michigan	19
Minnesota	19
Mississippi	20
Missouri	20
Montana	21
Nebraska	22
Nevada	22
New Hampshire	23
New Jersey	23
New Mexico	24
New York	25
North Carolina	25
North Dakota	26
Ohio	27
Oklahoma	27
Oregon	28
Pennsylvania	29

Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	31
Texas	31
Utah	
Vermont	
Virginia	
Washington	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

The research for this project was conducted by The Carter Center, with support from the National Conference of State Legislatures. This information is available online at the NCSL website, where it will be regularly updated. To offer comments or corrections, please contact <u>elections-info@ncsl.org</u>.

- < Not specified.
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified. Partisan observers are authorized to observe at election day polling places (Ala. Code §17-8-7).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified. Partisan observers are authorized (Ala. Code §17-11-11).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified. Partisan observers are authorized (Ala. Code §17-8-7).
- Nonpartisan observers are not permitted to observe recounts. Only representatives of opposing interests are invited to participate (Ala. Code §17-16-21).
- < Not specified.

- Voting equipment testing is open to the general public, political parties, and the press from a public viewing area. Partisan observers may observe the proceedings from inside the room where they happen (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-449; 2019 Elections Procedures Manual p.87).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified.
- Partisan observers are authorized to observe at election day polling places and early voting locations (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-590; 2019 Elections Procedures Manual p.139).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified.
- Partisan observers are authorized to observe processing at the county r (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-590; 2019 Elections Procedures Manual p.139).
- All proceedings at the counting center are open to the public (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-621).
- For any statewide, county or legislative election, election officials shall provide a live video recording of the custody of all ballots while they are in the tabulation room in the counting for viewing by the public. A

recording is also made and kept as public record for at least as long as the challenge period for the general election (Ariz Rev. Stat. §16-621(C)).

- Post-election audits are not subject to the live video recording cited above and are only open to partisan observers. However partisan observers may bring their own video camera to record it (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-602(B)).
- The official canvass of results is open to the public (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-643; 2019 Elections Procedures Manual p.239).
- Not specified, but for any statewide county or legislation election, officials must provide a live video recording of the custody of ballots while in the tabulation room, available from the
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Arkansas Code § 7-5-

6

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All observers must follow public health guidelines, wear masks and other personal protective equipment required by the county or location where election activities are occurring, and maintain strict social distancing guidelines. If observers are at a location for an hour or more, counties must use infrared thermometers to take their temperature. Anyone experiencing COVID-

- A department of elections may open absentee ballots in public meetings beginning the Friday before the day of the election in order to prepare them for tabulation (Delware Code, Title 15, § 55510A). Partisan observers may also be present.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or regulations adopted by the Department, the Department may open mail ballot envelopes in public meetings at any time between the 30th calendar day before the election and the closing of the polls on election day in order to prepare them for tabulation. The Department shall notify each party on the ballot that they may have challengers at the meetings during which the Department opens the mail ballots. The challengers may challenge ballots as provided elsewhere in this title (Delaware Code, Title 15, Section 5611 (a)).

- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (§101.5612, Fla. Stat.).
- State appointed staff, upon direction of Department of State, may examine the registration and election processes, and the condition, custody, and operation of voting system. (§101.58, Fla. Stat.).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not allowed. (§ 102.031, Ha. Stat.)
- Partisan observers (officially designated poll watchers) may be present in each polling room or early voting area anytime during the election and must be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or she serves (§§101.131 and102.031, Fla. Stat.)
- Canvassing board meetings are open to the public.
- If a vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged and cannot be counted by the automatic tabulation equipment, a true duplicate copy is made in the presence of witnesses. Partisan observers may request to observe this process (§101.5614, Fla. Stat.).
- The public may observe the process of verifying number of vote ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots and spoiled ballots to ensure the number corresponds with the number of ballots issued after the polls close (§101.5614, Fla. Stat.).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (§101.591, Fla. Stat.).
- Any machine or manual recount is open to the public (§§102.141, 102.166(3), Ha. Stat.)

- Officials engaged in the conducting of elections shall perform their duties in public (Code of Georgia § 21-2-406).
- Rooms under the control or supervision of the absentee ballot clerk in which absentee ballots are being cast shall be considered polling places, subject to the same rules listed above (Code of Georgia § 21-2-414(b)).
- < Counting of ballots at tabulating centers and precincts are open to the public (Code of Georgia § 21-2-483(b)).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Code of Georgia § 21-2-498).
- Recounts are open to the public (Rule 183-1-15-.03)
- < Not specified.
- Electronic voting equipment is subject to inspection, audit, and experimental testing, by qualified observers, before and after the election (Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 16-42).
- Any person or nonvoter group may be authorized by the clerk to observe at any voter service center or place of ballot deposit for educational purposes (Hawaii Rev. Stat. §11-132).
- At least two official observe1 15s343 BDC q0.00000912 0 612 792 reWhBT/F2 13 Tf 1 0 0 1 72.025 316.6 Tm0.184

- < Access to observing recounts is not specified.
- Some jurisdictions in Illinois are making plans to move to larger facilities to process absentee ballots, so that observers may be present and able to safely socially distance (conversation with a local election official in Illinois 8/26/2020).
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (IC3-11-13-23).
- < Access for nonpartisan observers is not permitted.
- Partisan observers and the media are authorized to observe at election day polling places and early voting satellite offices (IC3-6-8-1, IC3-6-10-1, IC3-6-8-7, IC3-11-8-15).
- Central count of absentee ballots may be observed by the public in an area designated by the county election board.
- Partisan observers and the media are authorized to serve as a watcher for the central count of absentee ballot (IC3-11.5-3).
- After election day the county board of elections meet to determine whether or not each provisional ballot is counted. This meeting is public and is also open to partisan and media observers (IC3-11.7-4, generally).
- Recounts for local and school board offices are open to the public, and each candidate affected by the recount may have a person serve as the watcher and the affected candidate and the media may also serve as a watcher (IC 3-12-6-21).
- Recounts for federal and state offices are open to the public, and each candidate affected by the recount may have a person serve as a watcher and the affected candidate and the media may also serve as a watcher (IC3-12-11-17).
- For counties using a direct record electronic (DRE) voting system, the county election board must perform an audit if the numbers reported by poll workers and the tapes coming from the system fall outside the audit constraints. If such an audit is required, then the public is informed of a post-election being conducted as it is a public meeting subject to the Open Door law (IC3-12-3.5-8).
- By executive order, Indiana requires masks to be worn in all public locations. The current order expires before election day, but it may be renewed.

- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Iowa Code §52.35).
- Partisan observers and members of the media may observe at polling locations (lowa Code §49.104). There cannot be more than three partisan observers at a time from each political party and they are appointed and accredited by the executive or central committee for that party.
- Persons interested in conducting and attending education voting programs may be permitted at the discretion of state and local election officials (lowa Code §49.104).
- Partisan observers may be present. Each political party may appoint up to five observers (lowa Code §53.23).
- The canvass of votes is open to the public (Iowa Code §50.1A, §50.46).
- Partisan observers (one selected by each of the two political parties) may observe the postelection audit (lowa Code §50.51).
- Recounts are open to the public (Iowa Admin. Code 721 26.106).
- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Kan. Stat. §25-4411).
- Nonpartisan observers are not explicitly permitted in statute but may be permitted if the observer is a registered Kansas voter and is appointed by an authorized poll agent. Authorized poll agents include chairpersons of political parties, chairpersons of ballot question committees, any candidate, or any precinct committeeperson (Kan. Stat. §§25-3005, 25-3005a).
- Nonpartisan observers, including international groups, may be granted permission to observe on a case-by-case basis (2019 Kansas Election Standards Chapter II p.64).
- Partisan observers, and nonpartisan observers if approved, may be present at the time and place of casting ballots (Kan. Stat. §25-3005).
- < Not specified.

- Each candidate or slate of candidates for presidential elector is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct on election day and the watcher is issued a commission by the parish board of election supervisors (La. RS 18:427 and 435).
- A watcher who is commissioned by the parish board of election supervisors shall be admitted within all parts of the polling place during the election day and the printing of results from the voting machines. (La. R.S 18:427(B)).
- Candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation, verification, counting, and tabulation of early voting ballots (La. RS 18:1313(E)).
- For parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election, candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation and verification process for the counting and tabulation of early voting ballots on the day before the election and the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day. (La. RS 18:1313.1(E))
- Partisan observers and qualified electors may be present during the tabulation of absentee ballots, including in cases when tabulation begins prior to the closing of the polls (LRS 18:1313(D)).
- Candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation, verification, counting, and tabulation of absentee by mail ballots (La. RS 18:1313(E)).
- For parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election, candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation and verification process for the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail ballots on the day before the election and the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day (La. RS 18:1313.1(E)).
- Partisan observers are admitted to all parts of the polling place during the election and during the counting and tabulation of votes (Poll Watchers Booklet p.4).
- Partisan observers may be present at recounts (LRS18:1313(J), 18:1453). Immediately upon receiving any request for a recount, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a

- Partisan observers may be present at polling places outside of the guardrail. Additional party workers and others are allowed if there is sufficient space at the polling place (21-A M.R.S.A. §627).
- Local election officials must publicly post the time when absentee ballot processing will begin on election day and notify partisan observers that this process is to occur. A member of the public may request to inspect absentee ballot applications and envelopes before they are processed (21-A M.R.SA. §759).
- Ballot counting is conducted in public (21-AM.R.S.A. §695).
- Partisan observers may be present at a recount (21-A M.R.S.A. §737-A).

- The counting of provisional and absentee ballots and verification of vote count is open to public observation (Maryland Challenger and Watchers Manual p.12).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Md. Election Law Code Ann. § 11-309).
- Recounts are open to the public (COMAR 33.12.03.02.).
- For each step of the process above that is open to observers, limitations may be placed on the number of public observers to allow for social distancing and to limit the number of people in a room. Depending on the local board, public observation may be available via livestream in lieu of in-person observation. Anyone interested in observing should contact the individual local boards of elections for specifics.
- The State Board of Elections adopted emergency regulations allowing local boards to begin canvassing mail-in ballots no earlier than October 1, 2020. Each local board will determine their specific canvassing schedule. The provisional canvass will still take place on the 2nd Wednesday after election day.
- Several jurisdictions in Maryland plan to livestream the canvass, a process that is usually open to the public but would be difficult for the public to observe due to social distancing requirements (conversation with Maryland local election official 8/26/2020).
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (950 CMR 54.00).
- The election is held in public view. Observers are allowed in every polling location outside of the guardrail (950 CMR 54.04(22)).
- Observers can be in polling places, but local election officials can restrict the numbers. The regulations provide that to achieve the legal requirement that the election be held in public view, observers shall be allowed inside the polling place, outside the guardrail, unless they are disorderly or obstruct the access of voters. Observers may keep notes including marked voting lists. If there are so many observers in the polling place that they obstruct voters, they may be asked to cooperate in collecting information. The warden may exclude from the polling place any person who is disorderly or who obstructs the access of voters. 950 C.M.R § 54.04(22)(a).
- Election officials open each envelope in view of any persons who may be present (Mass. Gen. Law Ann. ch. 54 §94).
- Ballot counting is open to the public (950 CMR 54.05(1)).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Mass. Gen. Law Ann. ch. 54 §109A; 950 CMR 46.00).
- Recounts are open to the public (Election Recounts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, p.5).

challengers, as defined above. (Minn. Stat. Ann. §204C.06; conversation with state election director in 2016 and 2020).

- The counting of absentee ballots is open to the public (Minn. Stat. Ann. §203B.212 Subd. 5).
- Partisan observers and any member of the public after voting is over can remain at the polling location until the votes are counted and the results declared (Minn. Stat. Ann. §204C.07).
- Proceedings at counting centers are open to the public (Minn. Stat. Ann. §§206.85, 206.86).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Minn. Stat. Ann. §204C.07).
- Recounts are open to the public (Minn. Admin. Rules 8235.0600).
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Challengers will be

required to wear masks in the polling place.

- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-521).
- < Access for nonpartisan observers is not specified.
- Partisan observers may observe at polling locations (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-577).
- Absentee ballot processing and counting is open to the public (Rule: 1 Miss Admin Code, Part 17 Chapters 1 - 3, Rule 1.1 - 3.1, in comment period as of 9/16 but will be final soon)
- The counting of ballots after the polls close is open to the public (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-581).
- All proceedings at a counting center are open to the public (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-523).
- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Missouri Rev. Stat. § 115.233).
- International observers who have registered with the election authority may be admitted to a polling place (Missouri Rev. Stat. §115.409).

- Partisan observers may be present at the polling place until all ballots are cast on the day of the election (Missouri Rev. Stat. §§ 115.105, 115.107).
- Partisan observers may be present at each location where absentee ballots are counted (Missouri Rev. Stat. §§ 115.105, 115.107).
- Partisan observers may observe the counting of votes (Missouri Rev. Stat. §§ 115.105, 115.107).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (15 CSR 30-10.110)
- Nonpartisan observers directly involved in requesting a recount may observe the process (Missouri Rev. Stat. §115.601).
- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Mont. Code Ann. §13-17-212).
- Nonpartisan observers, defined as any group having an interest in the election, may request the election administrator to allow observers at any polling location (Mont. Code Ann. §12-12-121).
- Partisan observers may observe at polling locations (Mont. Code Ann. §12-12-121).
- Absentee ballot preparation, which includes signature comparisons and preparing the ballots to be counted, is open to the public (Mont. Code Ann. §13-13-241).
- Any official vote count, including of absentee ballots, is open to the public (Mont. Code Ann. §§13-15-101, 13-13-241).
- Tabulation is open to the public (Mont. Code Ann. §13-15-101).
- Partisan observers may observe vote counting procedures after the closing of the poll, and all entries of the results of the elections (Mont. Code Ann. §12-12-120).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Mont. Code Ann. §13-17-506).
- Recounts are open to the public and the media (Mont. Code Ann §13-16-411).
- < Not specified.

- In practice, voting equipment testing is open to the public and the media.
- C There is not currently a statutory provision for observers, but LB 1055 was enacted by the Nebraska legislature in 2020 and will go into effect after the November 2020 election. It defines poll watcher as an individual representing a state-based, national, or international election monitoring organization and establishes an appointment process for these observers to be present at polling locations (Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1525, effective November 14, 2020).
- Poll watchers appointed by each political party may be present at each counting location. Other observers may be authorized by local election officials, but may not be connected with any candidate, political party or measure on the ballot (Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1013).
- C Poll watchers appointed by each political party may be present at each counting location. Other observers may be authorized by local election officials, but may not be connected with any candidate, political party or measure on the ballot (Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1013).
- Candidates affected by a recount have the right to send a representative (partisan observer) (Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1115).
- Not specific to the pandemic, but some of the larger counties have windows into the counting room which allows for a separation between observers and election workers counting ballots.
- Local election officials have the right to limit political observers to one if at any time space becomes an issue (Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1013).
- < Not specified.
- The conduct of voting at a polling place is open to the public. Any person may observe (Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.274, Nev. Admin. Code 293.245).
- Members of the general public may observe the preparation of absentee ballots at central counting boards (Nev. Admin. Code 293.311).
- Counting of absentee ballots is open to the public (Nev Rev. Stat. 293.385).

24

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- Partisan observers may examine voting equipment before it is sent out to polling locations (NY Election Law § 7 207).
- Partisan observers may be present at polling locations and must be a qualified voter of the city or county in which he or she serves (NY Election Law § 8 500).
- There is no provision for nonpartisan or international observers, but in the past when visitors from other states or countries have wanted to view the election process arrangements have been made with county election boards (conversation with state election director in 2016 and confirmed 2020).
- Partisan observers may be present during the examination of absentee ballot envelopes (NY Election Law § 8 506).
- Partisan observers may observe the canvass of votes at the polling location and the canvass of absentee ballots (NY Election Law §§ 9 102, 9 209).
- Partisan observers may observe the post-election audit (NY Election Law § 9 211).
- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (N.C.G.S § 163-165.7; 08 NCAC 04 .0307).
- During the time allowed for voting, only election officials, partisan observers, runners, voters, those authorized to provide assistance, and minor children, are allowed in the voting enclosure. (N.C.G.S §163-166.3).
- Partisan observers that are appointed by the county political party are permitted and must be registered voters of the county in which they observe. Additionally, the State political parties can each designate 100 at-large observers who are North Carolina registered voters, and they can observe any voting place in the State. No more than two county observers and one at-large observer from the same political party are permitted in the voting enclosure at any time. (N.C.S.G.S § 163-45).
- Partisan observers may also be present at early voting locations, which is called one-stop voting in North Carolina (N.C.S.G.A § 163-227.6).

- Absentee ballot counting is open to the public (N.C.S.G.S. § 163-234). Note: counting can take place at the absentee meetings under G.S. 163-230.1(f) but cannot be tabulated and results reported until Election Day. In some counties, these meetings may only be accessible to the public via live video stream due to COVID-19.
- Procedures for closing the polling place is open to public inspection. This includes the return and accounting of all ballots, the certification of ballots by officials of more than one political party, the delivery of registration documents to the county board of elections, and the return to the county board of all issued equipment (N.C.S.G. § 163-166.10). See also 08 NCAC 10B.0105.
- The vote count is open to the public (N.C.S.G. § 163-182.2(3)).
- Recounts provide opportunities for public observation (N.C.S.G. § 163-182.7).
- County boards of elections shall require that election workers to encourage any observers to wear face coverings and offer face coverings to those not wearing them, unless they state that an exception applies (North Carolina State Board of Elections Numbered Memo 2020-18, DHHS Interim Guidance for Election Voting Locations, p.3). Observers must at all times remain socially distanced from election workers and voters in the curbside voting area. See Numbered Memo 2020-20, page 2.
- In some counties, public meetings for counting absentee ballots may only be accessible to the public via live video stream due to COVID-19.
- Nonpartisan observers are allowed access to all stages of the election process, including the certification of election technologies (NDCC § 16.1-05-09).
- Nonpartisan observers are allowed access to all stages of the election process, including early voting (NDCC § 16.1-05-09).
- Nonpartisan observers are allowed access to all stages of the election process, including absentee voting (NDCC § 16.1-05-09).
- Nonpartisan observers are allowed access to all stages of the election process, including vote tabulation and recounts (NDCC § 16.1-05-09).
- < Not specified.

- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (Ohio Rev. Code § 3506.14).
- Nonpartisan and international observers are prohibited (Ohio Secretary of State Election Official Manual, rev. 12/18/2019, Section 1.08).
- Partisan observers may observe during the casting of ballots, which includes in-person absentee voting and at precinct polling places on election day (Ohio Rev. Code § 3505.21). The observers may be present from the opening until the closing of the polls on election day, as well as after the polls close (Ohio Secretary of State Election Official Manual, rev. 12/18/2019, Section 1.08).

- Nonpartisan observers are not permitted.
- Members of the media may be permitted inside the polling place for a period not to exceed five minutes (Oklahoma Stat. §26-7-112).
- The county election board meets publicly to remove the outer envelopes from all absentee ballots and examine and remove properly executed affidavits to prepare for counting (Oklahoma Stat. §26-14-123).
- Partisan observers may be present at any place where an official count is being conducted (Oklahoma Stat. §26-7-130).
- The candidate or an authorized individual may be present at a recount. If the recount is to be conducted using electronic voting devices, the devices shall be tested for accuracy by the county election board within view of all contestants or their agents (Oklahoma Stat. §§26-8-113, 114).
- Social distancing should be maintained in the polling place at all times, and election workers and voters are strongly recommended to wear masks at in-person voting sites (Oklahoma Covid-19 Polling Place Protocols).
- Vote tabulation equipment testing is open to the public (Ore. Rev. Stat. § 254.525).
- Elections are conducted entirely by-mail in Oregon. Though voters can go to county offices to cast a ballot if they need certain services, there are not traditional polling locations.
- Members of the public may observe all ballot processes except those that are confidential (Oregon Secretary of State, Vote by Mail Procedures Manual, rev. March 2020, p.22).
- Observers may watch the receiving of mailed ballots and counting of votes and are authorized by a political party, a candidate, or the county clerk. Nonpartisan observers may be able to observe if authorized by the county clerk (Ore. Rev. Stat. §254.482).
- Post-election audits are open to the public (Ore. Rev. Stat. § 254.532).
- Partisan observers may watch the recount (Ore. Rev. Stat. § 258.211).
- Not specified, but county clerks determine the number of observers allowed at any given time based on spaced, security and staff availability (Oregon Secretary of State, Vote by Mail Procedures Manual, rev. March 2020, p.22).

the open, count, canvass and tabulation. The state board may allow others into the railed space at is discretion (RI.G.L § 17-22-2).

- Post-election audits are open to the public (RI.G.L § 17-19-37.4).
- Recounts are open to the public (Rhode Island Board of Elections, Guide to Election Recounts, p.2).
- < Not specified.
- Voting equipment testing is open to the public (SC. Code Ann. §7-13-1390).
- Elections are a public process, and anyone is allowed to observe as long as they behave in an orderly manner and do not interfere with the electi in an

- Partisan observers may observe the inspection and securing of voting equipment before the election (Texas Election Code §33.059).
- Access for nonpartisan observers is not permitted. Bystanders are not permitted and loitering is a Class CM is demeanor (Texas Election Code §§61.001, 61.003).
- Partisan observers may be present at each polling place and early voting location (Texas Election Code §§33.001 33.007).
- Partisan observers must be a qualified voter of the county or political subdivision in which he or she serves (Texas Election Code §33.031).
- Partisan observers can be appointed to observe the ballot board process and count mail ballots and provisional ballots (Texas Election Code §33.054).
- Partisan observers may be present at each central counting station (Texas Election Code §§33.001 33.007).
- Observers may be asked to adhere to certain health and safety measures to protect the health and well-being of other observers, election workers and voters. Observers cannot be required to wear a face covering, but it is recommended. Election officials may consider having extras masks or face shields available at polling locations and ask observers to maintain at least six feet of separation from other individuals. Election officials can ask observers to review the health protocols and self-screen before entering the polling place, and if an observer arrives with signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 election officials may request that another observer is appointed (Texas Secretary of State, Election Advisory No. 2020-19 Voting in Person During COVID-19).
- The presiding judge of the polling place/ballot board/central count is the keeper of the peace in that location on election day. The presiding judge may decide that not wearing a mask when close to others is a breach of the peace. He or she may eject watchers who breach the peace (Texas Election Code §32.075).
- Anyone may register as an observer and observe voting equipment testing (UCA 20A-3a-801).
- Those that register as observers may also observe the collection, receipt, transport or transmission, and processing of a ballot (UCA 20A-3a-801).
- Anyone may register as an observer and may observe the setup and take down of a polling location, voter check-in, the collection, receipt and processing of a ballot, and the transport or (UCA 20A-3a-801).

- Anyone may register as an observer and observe the opening and inspection of a manual ballot and ballot duplication (UCA 20A-3a-801).
- Anyone may register as an observer and observe ballot tabulation, the post-election audit, a canvassing board meeting, the certification of the results of an election, and a recount (UCA)

- County auditors must request that the major political parties appoint partisan observers and county auditors have the discretion to also request that nonpartisan observers be appointed (RCW 29A.40.100).
- Appointed partisan and nonpartisan observers may be present for the post-