

**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**Alvin A. Jaeger**  
State of North Dakota  
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 108  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0500  
**ELECTIONS UNIT**  
(701) 328-4146  
siselect@nd.gov  
www.vote.nd.gov



## Election Observers

---

### What is an election observer?

An election observer is a nonpartisan individual wishing to monitor the administration of the election. The law permits these people to observe but not interfere with those marking their ballot or with officials performing their duties.

---

### How many election observers may be at the polls?

Although there is no official limit on how many election observers may be at the polls, the election inspector has the right to limit the number based on space restrictions.

---

### How are election observers selected?

Election observers are selected by the organizations they represent. Election observers must wear a name badge indicating their identity and affiliation, however there are no residency restrictions for these individuals.

---

### May election observers leave the polls?

Yes. These individuals are not members of the election board and may be replaced at any time during voting hours.

---

### How close can election observers be to the election board?

No legal constraints determine the location these individuals may occupy in relation to the election board. However, election observers may not interfere with the election process or with members of the election board. The election inspector may direct election observers to a particular location in the polling place.

### What does the North Dakota law say about election observers?

#### 16.1-05-09. Election observers.

1. Election observers must be allowed uniform and nondiscriminatory access to all stages of the election process, including the certification of election technologies, early voting, absentee voting, voter appeals, vote tabulation, and recounts.
2. An election observer must wear a badge with the name of the individual and the name of the organization the individual is representing. An election observer may not wear any campaign material advocating voting for or against a candidate or for or against any position on a question on the ballot. An election observer may not interfere with any voter in the preparation or casting of the voter's ballot or hinder or prevent the performance of the duties of any election official.