



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

12400 Imperial Highway – P.O. Box 1024, Norwalk, California 90651-1024 – www.lavote.net

DEAN C. LOGAN

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK RULES FOR ELECTION MEDIA OBSERVERS AND EXIT POLLS

Media conducting “Exit Polls” have different rules than poll watchers do. Clearly identified members of the news media may be within 25 feet of a polling place, and may speak to voters leaving the site as long as they do not interrupt voting and are at a distance of 25 feet from the entrance to the polling place.

The Press and Media may take pictures or run a television camera inside the polling place providing they respect the voter’s privacy and do not interfere with voting. However, voters may not be photographed, videotaped or filmed entering or exiting a polling place, and may not be filmed inside the polling place, without the voter’s permission. (EC §18541.)

Media must follow general observer guidelines provided at each election polling place:

1. The polling place Inspector is responsible for the decorum of the polling place and for ensuring that the polling process is carried out as efficiently and smoothly as possible. News media wishing to observe the polling process should first check in with the polling place Inspector.
2. News media should arrange with the polling place Inspector as to the location for observing the process without causing any disruption. This includes setups for cameras.
3. Polling places are not available to the media before the polls open at 7 a.m. to ensure poll workers have adequate time to properly set up the polling place and prepare for voters.
4. The hours between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. are when the polls are the most crowded and the uncoordinated presence of observers can be most disruptive. Therefore, coordination with the Inspector during this time period is essential. If news media wish to observe during this period, please be respectful of poll workers priorities and check-in with the Inspector first. Cooperation between media and the polling place officials is necessary so that the objectives of public observation and voter convenience and privacy can both be achieved.
5. The California Secretary of State and the Attorney General have reviewed the “Electioneering” provisions and have determined that these provisions do not apply to the Press and Media conducting “Exit Polls.” However, no one may interfere with the conduct of the election. Therefore, news media conducting “Exit Polls” must remain at least 25 feet from the entrance to the polls.
6. Exit polling of the voters is permitted but must be conducted outside the room where the voting is actually taking place. Obviously, the voter has the right not to disclose how he or she may have voted.