

**Chapter El Bd 4****ELECTION OBSERVERS****El Bd 4.01 Election observers**

**El Bd 4.01 Election observers.** (1) **PURPOSE.** The state elections board is empowered by s. 7.38 (1) (b), Stats., to authorize nonpartisan and bipartisan elector organizations not affiliated with a candidate to appoint election observers, in order to monitor compliance with election laws by local election officials. This rule codifies procedures for the authorization of these organizations and the performance of the election observers.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.** (a) Only nonpartisan and bipartisan organizations of electors not affiliated with any candidate may be authorized to appoint election observers under this rule.

(b) Requests for authorization shall be submitted by an organization to the state elections board at least 45 days prior to the election. This requirement may be waived by the board.

(c) Authorizations under this section by the board shall be made in writing, at least 7 days prior to an election, and copies of the authorizations will be transmitted to the clerk of each municipality in which observers will serve. In addition, an organization authorized to appoint observers under this section shall file its appointments with the municipal clerk at least 4 days prior to the election, in the same manner as the appointments of pollwatchers by candidates and political parties under s. 7.38 (1) (a), Stats., are filed. Prior to election day, the clerk shall notify the appropriate election workers in the municipality of the appointment of observers.

(3) **PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING.** (a) On election day, election workers shall position observers appointed under this rule so that the observers can closely monitor proceedings at the polling place. Observers shall not interfere with the proceedings.

(b) Observers shall monitor the proceedings at the polling place for compliance with criteria and standards provided by the elections board, and shall note any variance from those criteria and standards on forms provided by the board. Observers shall transmit those forms to the board within 3 days after the election.

**History:** Emerg. cr. eff. 8-17-78; cr. Register, April, 1979, No. 280, eff. 5-1-79.