



# Challenger, Watcher and Observer Training Class

General 2024

NM Secretary of State

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## Lesson One: Introduction

Terminology:

### **What is a Challenger?**

In a partisan election, Challengers are appointed by the county chair of each political party represented on the ballot, and must be voters of a precinct located in the county in which they are appointed.

### **What is a Watcher?**

Watchers are appointed by political parties and other qualified groups to observe the election process at a polling location, and must be registered voters in the state.

### **What is an Observer?**

An Election Observer is an academic interested in learning about the voting process. This means a person registered with the United States department of state as an international election observer or a person registered with the New Mexico secretary of state who is an academic engaged in research on elections and the election process.

### **What is a Presiding Judge?**

A Presiding Judge is the supervising pollworker at a polling location. This is who you should check-in with and is the only person at the polling location you should communicate with directly.

## FAQs:

### **What do I need to do when I arrive at a polling place?**

When you arrive at the polling place, check in with the Presiding Judge.

### **Where can I go and what can I observe?**

Don't stand in the way of voters or pollworkers. In order to protect the PII of the voters, you may not observe the screen of the ePollbook or SDR station. You may be in earshot of the voters being checked into the ePollbooks, and you may observe the tabulators being used, so long as you do not view the marked ballot of a voter.

### **How long can I observe for?**

You may observe the election process from the time the poll workers begin their setup and until the votes have been tabulated.

### **Who can I talk to?**

Questions should be kept to a minimum and directed to the Presiding Judge only. If you have general questions on the election process, contact your County Clerk. Do not talk to voters or other poll workers during the election.

### **Can I take pictures?**

No, you may not take pictures as an election challenger, watcher or observer.

### **Can I bring guests?**

No, only registered and approved challengers, watchers and observers, along with voters and poll workers, may be at the polling location.

## Access to Information to Interpose a Challenge

Each county clerk has flexibility, at their option, to provide the challenger at a given polling place with the information necessary to check that the information given by the voter matches that on the official voter rolls, in the manner the clerk deems fit, which may, but is not required to, include a laptop, or other clerk-provided printed source of the information so long as the information does not include any protected voter information.

If a county clerk elects not to provide the challenger at a given polling place with the information needed to conduct the verification (to check that the information given by the voter matches that on the official voter rolls), then the clerk will ensure that the challenger is given reasonable accommodations to bring their own sources of the information to the polling place and to reference it while remaining close enough to the poll worker to hear the exchange between the voter and poll workers during voter check-in.

These reasonable accommodations should include:

- a) the regular provision of up-to-date voter rolls and absentee registers to the chairperson of each county political party to distribute to the party's challengers;
- b) allowing challengers to bring a laptop or tablet containing these files into the polling place and to access those files;
- c) providing seating reasonably nearby the poll worker such that a person of ordinary hearing ability can overhear the full verbal exchange between voter and election judge/clerk; and
- d) providing a reasonable opportunity for the challenger to charge his or her laptop or tablet, including, if the setup of the polling place allows, continuous charging while seated near the poll worker.

Though laptops will be allowed in the polling location for challengers, they may only be used for the permitted activities of a challenger and for no other purpose. In polling places at which more than one poll worker is checking in voters, the challenger need not be provided with seating nearby to each poll worker but should be given a reasonable opportunity to move unobtrusively between such poll workers.

## Lesson Two: A Day in the Life of an Election Challenger, Watcher or Observer

### Arriving at the Polling Place as an Election Challenger, Watcher or Observer

When you arrive at a polling location, please introduce yourself and ask to speak to the Presiding Judge. Please let the presiding judge know that you have been appointed as a challenger, watcher or observer.

The presiding judge will ask you to present a copy of your written appointment.

#### Watchers and Observers:

Because you have been appointed by an organization before showing up at the polling location, the presiding judge will confirm your name is on the appointment list provided to the county clerk by the secretary of state.

#### Challengers:

For challengers, you must present the letter you have been issued from the chair of your political party, along with a copy of your certificate of completion for this training. The presiding judge will confirm your name is on the appointment list provided to the county clerk by the party. If more than one challenger has been appointed to a polling location, the challengers will be listed in ranking order.

Once confirmed, the presiding judge will provide you with a I.D. badge that is to be worn the entire time you are at the location. No other form of identification, party or candidate attire should be worn.

The presiding judge may ask you to sign in and might provide you with specific information about the polling location.

The presiding judge is like a "supervisor" of a polling location. Please direct all communication, if needed, to the presiding judge only.

### **What you may do at the Polling Place**

As a challenger, watcher or observer, you may:

1. Be present in the room in which voting or absent voter election board activity is taking place.
2. Be present at any time from the time the precinct board convenes at the polling place until the completion of the election board's duties after the polls close.
3. Be permitted to observe that the election is being conducted in accordance with the Election Code.
4. View the signature roster or precinct voter list to ascertain whether a voter has voted, subject to prohibitions and restrictions outlined in the Election Code.
5. View any tabulator being used.
6. Take notes.

## Interposing Challenges

### **Challenger Election Code:**

1-12-20. Conduct of election; interposing challenges. A challenge may be interposed by a member of the precinct board or by a party challenger for the following reasons:

- A. the person offering to vote is not registered to vote;
- B. the person offering to vote is listed among those persons to whom an absentee ballot was mailed;
- C. the person offering to vote has already cast a ballot in that election;
- D. the person offering to vote is improperly registered because the person is not a qualified elector; or
- E. in the case of a primary election, the person desiring to vote is not affiliated with a political party represented on the ballot.

*History: 1953 Comp., § 3-12-37, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 240, § 273; 1987, ch. 249, § 31; 2011, ch. 137, § 90.*

### **What this means in the Polling Place:**

Any pollworker or registered challenger at a New Mexico polling place may publicly question a person's right to vote based on any of the following criteria:

- You know they have returned a voted absentee ballot for this election
- You know they have already cast an in-person ballot for this election
- You know they are not eligible for this election and have falsified their registration
- You know they are not part of the party they are trying to vote for in a primary election

Interposing Challenges – Absent Voter Board

## Interposing Challenges - Absent Voter Board:

An appointed challenger may view the official mailing envelope and may challenge the ballot of any mailed ballot voter for the following reasons:

*(1) the official mailing envelope has been opened by someone other than the voter prior to being received by the absent voter election board;*

*(2) the official mailing envelope does not contain a signature;*

*(3) the official mailing envelope does not contain the required voter identification;  
or*

*(4) the person offering to vote is not a voter as provided in the Election Code.*

*If a challenge is upheld by unanimous vote of the presiding judge and the election judges, the official mailing envelope shall not be opened but shall be placed in a container provided for challenged ballots. If the reason for the challenge is satisfied by the voter before the conclusion of the county canvass or as part of an appeal, the official mailing envelope shall be opened and the vote counted.*

*If the form on the reverse of the official mailing envelope has been completed by the voter with the voter's correct information, as verified by the county clerk, and the ballot has not been successfully challenged, the judges or election clerks shall make the appropriate notation in the ballot register."*

- **This Means:** Challengers may be present and view the opening of returned absentee ballots, and they may challenge the ballot of any absentee voter if they believe the ballot is ineligible based on the following criteria:
  - If the ballot has been opened prior to being received by the absentee board
  - If the signature is missing from the envelope
  - If the voter's information is missing from the envelope
  - If the ballot belongs to an ineligible voter
- In the event that an absentee ballot is challenged and the members of the absentee board agree unanimously to uphold the challenge, the ballot is placed, unopened, in a separate container with other challenged ballots. If the voter is able to prove the ballot is eligible before the end of the county canvass, the ballot will be opened and count



## Prohibited Behavior

### **You shall not:**

1. Perform any duty of an election board member.
2. Handle the ballots, signature rosters, checklist of voters or tabulators or any part of the counting or tallying of ballots.
3. Be allowed to view a voter's full date of birth or any portion of the voter's social security number.
4. Interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the counting or tallying of the ballots or the county canvass.
5. Intimidate any voter.
6. Attempt to influence a voter's vote while in the polling location or within the established electioneering boundary.

## Lesson Three: Challenger, Watcher and Observer

### Eligibility Requirements

#### Registration Eligibility

- *Challengers shall be voters in a precinct located in the county in which they are appointed.*
  - **This means:** You must be a registered voter in the county where you are appointed, in order to be a Challenger.
- *Watchers shall be voters of a precinct in this state.*
  - **This means:** You must be a registered voter in the state of New Mexico in order to be an Election Watcher.
- *Election Observers shall be registered with the United States department of state as an international election observer, or a person registered with the New Mexico Secretary of State who is an academic engaged in research on elections and the election process.*
  - **This means:** You may only be an observer if you are registered with the US Department of State or the NM SOS.

## Ineligible Persons

A person may not be a challenger, watcher or election observer if they meet any of the following criteria:

- ...is a candidate for any office to be voted for at the election
  - **This means:** if you are a candidate on the ballot for this election, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer.
- ...is a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, brother or sister of any candidate to be voted for at the election
  - **This means:** if you are in the immediate family of any candidate on the ballot for this election, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer.
- ...is married to a parent, child, brother or sister of any candidate to be voted for at the election or is the parent of the spouse or domestic partner of any candidate to be voted for at the election.
  - **This means:** if any candidate on the ballot of this election is your in-law, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer.
- ...is a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal or state or municipal police officer;
  - **This means:** if you are currently employed in any of the above roles, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer.
- ...has accepted an appointment to serve as an election board member in the same election;
  - **This means:** if you are a pollworker or absentee board member for this election, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer.

## Conduct and Training

- ...has been removed from service as a challenger, watcher, election observer or county canvass observer in the current or immediately preceding election cycle by unanimous vote of the presiding judge and election judges of an election board for violating the permitted or prohibited activities of challengers, watchers, election observers or county canvass observers; provided that the election board detailed with reasonable specificity the conduct that led to the violation on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and the form is retained by the county clerk; or
  - **This means:** if you were a challenger, watcher, or election observer in the most recent election and you were removed from your role for violating the rules, you are not eligible to be a challenger, watcher or election observer in this election.
- Challengers and Watchers Only (does not apply to Observers): has not completed the training and received a certificate from the county clerk.
  - **This means:** If you have not completed this training course in time for the election, you are not eligible to be a challenger or watcher.

## Watcher Appointment

- Election-related organizations must register with the Secretary of State's Office before they can appoint watchers.
  - This must be done 70 days before a regularly scheduled statewide election, or
  - 42 days before a special election
- Registered election-related organizations may appoint watchers in county by sending written notice to the Secretary of State's Office at least seven days prior to serving as a watcher during early voting, the election date, or the ballot qualification period for mailed ballots.
- In addition to election-related organizations being able to appoint watchers, any group of three or more candidates on the ballot of this election may also choose to appoint watchers. Watchers who are

appointed on behalf of candidates may be present only in polling locations within the county of appointment at which ballots are cast for at least one of the candidates making the appointment.

### Challenger Appointment

- The county chair of each political party represented on the ballot in a partisan election may appoint in writing challengers for each polling location. If more than one challenger is appointed to a polling location, the challengers shall be listed in ranking order.
  - If any county chair fails to make such appointments, or if there is no county chair, the state chair of the political party may in a partisan election appoint in writing one challenger for each polling location in the county.
- Registered election-related organizations may appoint challengers in a county by sending written notice to the county clerk's office, prior to the early voting, election date, or the ballot qualification period for mailed ballots.
- Challengers shall wear uniform identification badges at all times while they are present in the polling place, designating them as authorized challengers of the political party which they represent. Challengers shall not wear any other form of identification, party or candidate pins. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and materials of such badges, which will be furnished to the challengers by the presiding judge upon presentation of their written appointments.
- Subject to permission granted by the county clerk, additional challengers may be present in the room in which the absent voter election board, the recount election board, or the election board for a special election conducts its business in a partisan election, provided that the number of additional challengers allowed is identical for each political party participating in the election.

## Lesson Four: Permitted and Prohibited Activities

### Permitted Activities

What may I do as a Challenger, Watcher or an Election Observer?

**First and foremost, respect the authority of the Presiding Judge of the polling location as they help to administer the election.**

#### You May:

- *"Be allowed in the room in which the voting is being conducted at a polling location; provided that at any given time, each political party, candidate or election-related organization may have no more than one person present."*
  - This means that if you arrive to a polling location which already has a Watcher from the same organization that you are registered with, you may not be allowed to observe the voting.
- *"Be allowed in the room in which the absent voter election board, the recount election board or the election board for a special election conducts its business or, in the case of county canvass observers, in which the county canvass is conducted; provided that each political party, candidate or election-related organization shall have no more than:*
  - *two persons present at any given time in counties with more than ten thousand registered voters;*
  - *four persons present at any given time in counties with more than fifty thousand registered voters; or*
  - *fifteen persons present at any given time in counties with more than one hundred fifty thousand registered voters."*
    - **This means:** The number of Challengers/Watchers/Observers allowed in the room during the Absentee Board process is determined based on the number of registered voters in the county. If you arrive to the Absentee Board and there are already Watchers from the same organization, you may not be able to view the Absentee board process.

## Permissible Activities

While at a polling location, properly registered and credentialed Challengers, Watchers and Observers may do the following:

- You may be present at any time from the time the precinct board convenes at the polling place, until the completion of the precinct board's duties after the polls close.
  - **This means:** You may enter the polling place after the board arrives for setup, but you do not have to wait until the polls open for voting. You may also stay after polls close, while the board is finishing their closing duties. *Please keep in mind these are your neighbors performing an important civic duty just like you are, and it is important to be respectful of one another's role in the election process.*
- You are also permitted to observe that the election is being conducted in accordance with the Election Code.
- You cannot view protected voter information, but can be close enough to hear the voter provide the required information to receive a ballot.
- You may view the precinct voter list to ascertain whether a voter has voted, subject to the same prohibitions and restrictions as are placed upon challengers by the Election Code.
- You may view any voting machine being used in the precinct before polls are opened to ensure that the public counter is at zero, that the results tape contains no votes and that there are no voted ballots in the voting machine bins.
- You may make in any polling place and preserve for future reference written memoranda of any action or omission on the part of any member of the precinct board charged with the performance of a duty by the Election Code.

## Prohibited Activities

If you are a challenger, watcher or observer, you may not:

- Be permitted to perform any duty of an election board member.
- Handle the ballots, signature rosters, checklist of voters or voting machines or take any part in the counting or tallying of the ballots or the county canvass.
- Be allowed to view a voter's full date of birth or any portion of the voter's social security number.
- Interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the counting or tallying of the ballots or the county canvass.

Your role is to observe and watch the election, and not to take over the duties of the sworn-in polling officials. If you have questions, speak with the Presiding Judge of the location.

You are not permitted to interfere with the voting process or other voters, nor are you permitted to handle ballots or interact with the pollbook or tabulators.



## Other Legal Requirements

- Challengers, watchers, election officials, and members of the precinct board cannot disclose who anyone had voted for. You are there to observe the election process, not to observe which candidates individuals vote for.
- If you are an appointed challenger, watcher or observer who has presented their written appointment and is not interfering with the election process, you may not be denied access to the polling place. Likewise, you may not interfere with any other watcher or observer.
- During the election counting and tallying process, only members of the precinct board may handle ballots, signature rosters, or tally sheets. If you are a challenger, watcher or observer, you may be present for the count and tally, but may not interfere with the process.
- Do not engage in any intimidating behavior while acting as an election challenger, watcher or observer. This includes any action intended to scare or induce fear in anyone involved in the election process, such as a poll worker, voter, or county clerk. Whoever commits intimidation is guilty of a fourth degree felony.
- Polling place access may not be obstructed at any time during the election. This includes anyone within 50 feet of the polling place who is willfully blocking access to the site.

## Lesson Five: What is a County Canvass Observer?

### **County Canvass Observers:**

The county chair of each political party represented on a partisan ballot may appoint in writing county canvass observers. A candidate for elected office and an election-related organization in a statewide or special election may each appoint county canvass observers in a county if the candidate or organization makes a written request to the secretary of state and specifies the names of the qualified appointees.

### **How are Canvass Observers Appointed?**

Each party represented on the ballot for the election may appoint canvass observers. Candidates and election related organizations may also appoint them. As with election challengers and watchers, the SOS will notify the counties of any and all qualified appointees.

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# NM SOS Election Challenger, Watcher and Observer Information

1. First and Last Name

2. Voter ID

3. Email

4. Role

- Challenger
- Watcher
- Observer
- Unsure

5. County

6. Address

7. City

8. Zip Code

9. State

10. Year of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_ has passed the course:  
*(name)*

# NM SOS Challengers and Watchers

## General Election 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Trainee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of County Clerk Representative*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Date of Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_





STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CHALLENGERS, WATCHERS, AND OBSERVERS:**

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE, COMPLETE/SIGN/DATE THE LAST PAGE, AND RETURN TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT THE LOCATION WHERE YOU ARE SERVING AS A CHALLENGER**

**Appointment of Challengers, Watchers and Observers**

**\*\*CHALLENGERS, WATCHERS AND OBSERVERS MUST BE APPOINTED OR REGISTERED\*\***

**Challengers** are appointed in writing by the county chair of each political party represented on the ballot in a partisan election, for each polling location. If more than one challenger is appointed to a polling location, the challengers shall be listed in ranking order. If a county chair fails to make such appointments or if there is no county chair, the state chair of the political party may in a partisan election appoint in writing one challenger for each polling location in the county (NMSA 1978, § 1-2-21).

**Watchers** are appointed by election-related organizations or any group of three candidates for elected office in a statewide election with written notice to the Secretary of State at least seven days prior to service (NMSA 1978, § 1-2-27).

**County Canvass Observers** are appointed by the county chairs of each political party (partisan elections), candidates, and election-related organizations may appoint observers by sending a list to the Secretary of State's Office (NMSA 1978, § 1-2-31).

**State Canvass Observers** are appointed by the state chairs of each political party (partisan elections), candidates, and election-related organizations may appoint observers by sending a list to the Secretary of State's Office (NMSA 1978, § 1-2-32).

**Election Observers** mean persons registered with the United States department of state as an international election observer or a person registered with the New Mexico Secretary of State who is an academic engaged in research on elections and the election process (NMSA 1978, § 1-1-3.2).

*(Written appointments are required and should include the name of the person appointed, who they represent and polling location they are assigned to.)*

**QUALIFICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 1-2-22; NMSA 1978, § 1-2-29; and NMSA 1978, § 1-2-31, Challengers and County Canvass Observers shall be voters of a precinct located in that county to which they are appointed. Watchers and State Canvass Observers shall be voters of a precinct in the state. No person shall be qualified for appointment or service as a Challenger, Watcher or Observer:

- A. Who is a candidate for any office to be voted for at the election;
- B. Who is a spouse, parent, child, brother or sister of any candidate to be voted for at the election;
- C. A person shall not be qualified for appointment or service as a challenger, watcher or election observer if the person:
  - (1) is a candidate for any office to be voted for at the election;
  - (2) is a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, brother or sister of any candidate to be voted for at the election;
  - (3) is married to a parent, child, brother or sister of any candidate to be voted for at the election or is the parent of the spouse or domestic partner of any candidate to be voted for at the election;
  - (4) is a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal or state or municipal police officer;
  - (5) has accepted an appointment to serve as an election board member in the same election;
  - (6) has been removed from service as a challenger, watcher, election observer or county canvass observer in the current or immediately preceding election cycle by unanimous vote of the presiding judge and election judges of an election board for violating the permitted or prohibited activities of challengers, watchers, election observers or county canvass observers; provided that the election board detailed with reasonable specificity the conduct that led to the violation on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and the form is retained by the county clerk; or
  - (7) for challengers and watchers, has not completed the training and received a certificate from the county clerk pursuant to Subsection A of this section. Who is a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal or state or municipal police officer.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**CHALLENGERS, WATCHERS AND OBSERVERS DUTIES**

1. Must sign in/out with the presiding judge and wear the provided badge at all times while present in the polling location. Badges are not to be passed from one person to another.
2. Shall not disrupt the flow of voters or converse with voters at any point inside of the voting location or within 50 feet of the door through which voters enter.
3. May not intimidate voters or any election board member at any time.
4. Must communicate only with the presiding judge.
5. Shall stand back when the results are being printed from the machines.
6. Shall not impede or disrupt the voters’ progress, interfere with the orderly conduct of the election or counting or tallying of the ballots.
7. Shall not perform any duty of an election board member, including handling ballots, poll books, signature rosters, checklists of voters or voting machines, or take part in the counting or tallying of the ballots or the county canvass.
8. Are not allowed to view a voter’s full date of birth or any portion of the voter’s social security number.
9. Shall not electioneer by showing support of any candidate or party (including any discussions regarding the election within 50 feet of the polling place).
10. May not sit alongside the poll workers at any time and should be in a location that does not interfere with the signing in of voters while allowing them to observe the process.
11. Can be present the entire time the Election Board is convened and working.
12. Can view the tabulators, zero tape and verify the ballot bin is empty before polls open as long as these requests do not interfere with the work of the election officials.
13. Multiple Challengers, Watchers or Observers may be permitted but they should all be listed on the appointment letter.
14. Voters are not required to “check-in” with Challengers, Watchers, and Observers.
15. The presiding judge is in charge of the polling location and has the right to ask any disruptive person to leave the area where voting is taking place. The presiding judge should immediately report any problems to the County Clerk’s Office.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING**

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print first and last name)

Appointed: Challenger / Watcher / Observer  
(Circle position title)

For \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of entity affiliated with)

Acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the laws and rules related to my role.

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Signature of challenger, watcher or observer)



# NM SOS Election Challenger, Watcher and Observer Training Test V2

1. Which county can you be a Watcher in?

- You may serve as a Watcher in any county.
- You may only serve as a Watcher in the county where you are registered to vote.
- Not all counties have Watchers, so you can only be a Watcher if you live in certain counties.

2. Watchers and challengers may take the place of an election board member if they choose.

- True
- False

3. When can a challenger, watcher or observer handle the tally sheets during the election?

- Never.
- Once they have been viewed by the county clerk.
- Every Wednesday.
- Before 9am.

4. Can I be an election watcher if I am a Sheriff

- Yes, you can be a watcher no matter who you are.
- No, Sheriffs are not eligible to be election watchers.
- Yes, but only with permission from your boss.

5. A candidate's spouse may be a watcher or challenger.

True

False

6. Challengers may handle ballots.

True

False

7. Where do I go to check in?

Check in with the fire station.

Check in with the Presiding Judge.

8. What is the purpose of this training?

To sign up to be a pollworker.

To learn about the complete election process.

To learn what it takes to be an election challenger, watcher or observer in New Mexico.

9. Do I need to wear a name badge?

- Yes, you need to wear a name badge when at the polling location.
- No, you do not need to wear a name badge when at the polling location.
- You only need to wear a name badge if you are requested to by the Presiding Judge.

10. What is an Election Watcher?

- An election watcher is there to challenge election results and talk to voters.
- An election watcher is anyone with binoculars at a polling place.
- Election Watchers are voters appointed by political parties and other qualified groups to observe the election process at a polling location.

11. Can I take notes as an election watcher or challenger?

- You may take written notes, pictures, and any audio recordings that you wish
- You may take written notes at the polling location.
- No, you may not take any notes at the polling place.

12. Can anyone be a County Canvass Observer?

- Yes, there are no restrictions on who can observe the county canvass.
- No, county canvass observers must follow the same eligibility requirements as other election watchers.

13. The Presiding Judge may ask you to sign in when you arrive.

- True
- False

14. As a challenger, watcher, or observer, can I speak to voters while they complete their ballot?

- Yes, you may speak to voters at any time as a challenger, watcher, or observer.
  - No, you may only speak to voters during the check-in process.
  - No, you may not speak to voters while in the polling location.
-

# NM SOS Election Challenger, Watcher and Observer Training Test

1. Who appoints the county canvass observers?

- The Watchers.
- Political parties (in partisan elections) and candidates (in all statewide elections).

2. Watchers and challengers may take the place of an election board member if they choose.

- True
- False

3. A candidate's spouse may be a watcher or challenger.

True

False

4. Which county can you be a Watcher in?

You may serve as a Watcher in any county.

You may only serve as a Watcher in the county where you are registered to vote.

Not all counties have Watchers, so you can only be a Watcher if you live in certain counties.

5. Challengers may handle ballots.

True

False

6. When can a challenger, watcher or observer handle the tally sheets during the election?

- Never.
- Once they have been viewed by the county clerk.
- Every Wednesday.
- Before 9am.

7. Where do I go to check in?

- Check in with the fire station.
- Check in with the Presiding Judge.

8. The Presiding Judge may ask you to sign in when you arrive.

- True
- False



9. Do I need to wear a name badge?

- Yes, you need to wear a name badge when at the polling location.
- No, you do not need to wear a name badge when at the polling location.
- You only need to wear a name badge if you are requested to by the Presiding Judge.

10. What is an Election Watcher?

- An election watcher is there to challenge election results and talk to voters.
- An election watcher is anyone with binoculars at a polling place.
- Election Watchers are voters appointed by political parties and other qualified groups to observe the election process at a polling location.

11. Can I take notes as an election watcher or challenger?

- You may take written notes, pictures, and any audio recordings that you wish
- You may take written notes at the polling location.
- No, you may not take any notes at the polling place.

12. Can I be an election watcher if I am a Sheriff?

- Yes, you can be a watcher no matter who you are.
- No, Sheriffs are not eligible to be election watchers.
- Yes, but only with permission from your boss.

13. Can anyone be a County Canvass Observer?

- Yes, there are no restrictions on who can observe the county canvass.
- No, county canvass observers must follow the same eligibility requirements as other election watchers.

14. What is the purpose of this training?

- To sign up to be a pollworker.
  - To learn about the complete election process.
  - To learn what it takes to be an election challenger, watcher or observer in New Mexico.
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