RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING PRE-CANVASS, CANVASSING AND COMPUTATION OF RETURNS

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to govern the conduct of observers permitted under the Election Code to observe the pre-canvassing, canvassing, and computation of the returns of votes cast for each primary and general election.

1. Each observer permitted under the Election Code may be present at the pre-canvassing, canvassing, and computation of the returns of votes cast, including the pre-canvassing and canvassing of mail-in and absentee ballots.

2. Observers shall not interfere with, distract, or disrupt the individuals performing the pre-canvass, canvass, and/or computation.

3. Observers shall not engage in any harassing or intimidating behavior.

4. Observers shall be positioned in an observation area designated by the Director or her designee within the room where the pre-canvassing, canvassing, and computation occurs. Observers shall not be physically positioned in any way that would interfere with the pre-canvassing, canvassing, and computation of the returns.

5. Observers will be admitted into the observation area on a first-come, first-served basis. If a room reaches the maximum capacity allowed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, observers may be refused entry to the observation area until a sufficient number of people leave the area.

6. Audio and/or visual recording is not permitted.

7. Observers are not permitted to bring recording devices (i.e., binoculars, cameras, etc.). Observers are permitted to have their cell phones with them, but cell phones can only be used outside of the designated room where the pre-canvassing, canvassing, and computation occurs.

8. Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Election Code, no person observing, attending, or participating in a pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls. See 25 P.S. § 3146.8(g)(1.1).

9. The failure of any observer to comply with these guidelines may result in removal of the observer.

OBSERVERS MUST SIGN-IN AT CENTRAL SCAN TO RECEIVE A BADGE