



House Contest Election Observer Program

1. What is the House contested election observer program?

Under the U.S. Constitution, the House is the final arbiter of the election of its own Members. U.S. CONST. art. I, § 5, cl. 1. Any candidate in a House general or special election may contest the results in Congress. In elections where there might later be a contest before the House, the Committee on House Administration will send observers to monitor election procedures on behalf of the House.

Observers take note of and report back to the Committee on House Administration what they see or hear that could be critical to the fair resolution of a contest. Observers typically serve in bipartisan teams, with an observer sent from both the Majority and Minority party. Any candidate can request an observer team.

2. Why would you request an observer?

If you have concerns that a contest may be filed with the House, even if you are leading in the election results, you should request an observer. House observers are not sent to represent either campaign, but instead represent the House and provide the House with observations that can help expeditiously and fairly resolve a contest.

3. How long will observers stay?

The post-election process can last a couple of days or a week or more. We ask that observers spend full days observing and we will provide observer coverage for as long as the post-election process continues, or until a candidate concedes.

4. How do you request an observer?

Please send a request letter on campaign letterhead, signed by the candidate, to the Committee on House Administration. A digital signature is sufficient. Please also include the name, email, and cellphone number of a point of contact on the campaign for the Committee on House Administration to reach with any questions.