

Rules for Observers – Virtual Ballot Count

1. All candidates have the right to have **one observer** view the polls the counting of the ballots. Each observer must be a UNAC/UHCP member in good standing. A candidate may serve as his or her own observer, but a candidate may not serve as an observer (even for another candidate) during the period when ballot counting is taking place.
2. Observers must **not** interfere with or disrupt the conduct of the election.
3. Observers should direct any procedural questions directly to election officials. Observers should report any problems or lodge any protests as soon as possible so that any necessary corrective action can be taken.
4. Observers must not compromise, or give the appearance of compromising, the secrecy of the ballot; but observers may count the number of voters voting and note their names.
5. Observers are **not** permitted to use have their cameras turned on and their microphones will be muted. Questions may be asked through the Chat option of the virtual program.
6. Observers may challenge the eligibility of any voter by clearly specifying the basis for the objection to election officials. (For example, “I challenge the eligibility of Voter X because he is retired”).
7. Observers have no right to count or handle ballots but are limited to observing the counting closely enough to verify the accuracy of the tally. Observers may challenge the accuracy of the way votes are processed and counted, but they should state any objection to election official as soon as possible, so that any necessary corrective action can be taken.
8. Observers must not discuss election results until they have been announced by the Election Chairperson.
9. If an observer violates any of these rules, an election official may remove the observer from the virtual meeting. Then an election official will attempt to notify the affected candidate so that he or she can identify a replacement observer.