



OFFICIAL ELECTION BULLETIN

November 1, 2018

TO: County Election Officials and County Registrars

FROM: Chris Harvey, Elections Division Director

RE: International Election Observers

As in past years, there may be observers in and around polling places on Election Day and the last days of advance voting. Specifically, there are two groups of international election observers from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE). This organization works with the U.S. State Department to observe elections in the United States.

Election Observers are not Poll Watchers.

Poll Watchers are specified under O.C.G.A. 21-2-408, and only properly credentialed Poll Watchers are granted specific access to polling places (see OEB dated October 17, 2018.) Election Observers have no specific privileges and get no specific access to any non-public area of a polling place. They are allowed the same access of a member of the public.

In addition, any member of the public who is at a polling place is subject to the same conditions of O.C.G.A. 21-2-413 and O.C.G.A. 21-2-414 as well as other applicable laws and State Election Board Rules which include, but are not limited to:

Using cell phones or recording devices

Taking photographs

Interfering with election officials or voters

Displaying campaign materials or soliciting votes

Under O.C.G.A. 21-2-414(b)(2), "Except for credentialed poll watchers, poll workers, and law enforcement officers, poll managers may manage the number of persons allowed in the polling place to prevent confusion, congestion, and inconvenience to voters."