

## Preliminary Statement: Nonpartisan Election Observation of Training for Arizona's Election Day Poll Workers

As part of a pilot program to provide increased public oversight of the election process, The Carter Center assessed training for Election Day poll workers in Arizona through a combination of in-person observation — where welcomed by county election officials — and a desk review of poll worker training materials. Nonpartisan observers attended poll worker training in Mohave and Navajo counties on Oct. 28 and in Coconino County on Nov. 1, using a standardized checklist to assess the training process and the conduct of key stakeholders. The Center conducted a desk review of poll worker training materials, which included a combination of training manuals and videos, from Apache, Cochise, Graham, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma counties.<sup>1</sup> Given that the Center only observed a small number of the poll worker trainings across the state, it is important to note that the findings here are not necessarily reflective of poll worker training in the state as a whole.

Poll worker training is an essential part of any election process. Interactions with poll workers shape in-person voters' perceptions of the election. Volunteer poll workers across the state are responsible for administering elections and ensuring they are conducted in accordance with state and federal law. Effective training of poll workers is critical to ensuring they properly understand their roles and responsibilities and can provide a positive voter experience on Election Day so that voting is safe, lawful, inclusive, and secure.

Nonpartisan Election Observation Methods<sup>2</sup>

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## Key Findings and Recommendations

Environment for In-Person Training: In each of the three trainings observed by The Carter Center, poll worker training took place in a calm and respectful environment that was free of disruptions, intimidation, or harassment. Although training sizes varied considerably — ranging from about 15 poll workers at the Nov. 1 session in Coconino County to about 85 poll workers for the Oct. 28 training in Mohave County — appropriate training venues with sufficient space were provided. While it was occasionally difficult to hear questions posed by attendees in Mohave County, the trainers used microphones, and responses were clearly audible throughout the venue. No official party observers (Democrat, Libertarian, or Republican) nor members of the media were present during the trainings observed by the Center.

Observers found all three training venues (i.e., in Mohave, Navajo, and Coconino counties) to be generally accessible to members of the public with disabilities. All three venues had clearly marked accessible parking spaces and wheelchair-accessible main entrances. Doors into the training facility either had push buttons or could be easily opened with one hand. Paths from the parking lot to the building entrance and to the training rooms were smooth and clear of stairs, narrow doorways, or other obvenue.



track reported incidents of voter intimidation in order to develop more detailed best-practice guidance that can be offered during poll worker training in future elections.

While most counties provided guidance on how tribal ID can be used to meet the state's voter identification requirements, often this guidance was minimal. None of the trainings attended or materials reviewed by the Center provided information on how to co-locate tribal, state, and federal elections to avoid confusion in the event of contemporaneous elections.<sup>5</sup>

While most counties provided guidance on setting up and operating e-pollbooks or poll pads (if used) and operating accessible voting equipment, the materials reviewed by the Center did not consistently provide guidance on how to troubleshoot alerts from e-pollbooks, nor how to troubleshoot common issues that voters may encounter while utilizing accessible voting equipment. Such information can be important, however, given the role played by Election Day technicians, who provide poll workers with proactive troubleshooting guidance on common errors. BI87 534.07 Tm0 /F3

secure, public perceptions may be negative given the current environment, in which significant numbers of voters are voicing concerns about the