OSCE Election Observation Mission for the U.S. 2016 Elections

Ambassador Daniel Baer
U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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WHAT IS THE **OSCE**?

- World’s largest regional security organization
- 57 member states in Europe, Central Asia, and North America
- Promotes security, democracy, and human rights – *including by observing elections in member states.*
Why do we invite the OSCE to observe our elections?

**Leading by Example**

Seeing American democracy in action challenges and inspires other countries to hold their own fair, transparent, democratic elections.

**Holding Others Accountable**

Our openness & transparency help us hold other countries to account when they don’t live up to international standards.
Beware the critics!

What our adversaries want:

• Actively seeking opportunities to portray U.S. as undemocratic

• Hoping we will deny observers access / ability to perform their mission

How you can help:

• Show the world that we live up to our talk: that our elections are inclusive, open, and transparent

• Demonstrate that if issues arise, we work through them in a manner consistent with our laws and our Constitution
What to expect on Election Day:

**OBSERVERS WILL**

- Present a valid credential on arrival at a polling or tabulation site.
- Ask questions of election officials and site staff.
- Review election materials, such as voter rolls.
- Unobtrusively observe preparation, polling, and vote tabulation.
- Note compliance with procedures.

**OBSERVERS WILL NOT**

- Disrupt or interfere with the voting or tabulation process.
- Advocate on behalf of any candidate or political party.
- Give commands or instructions to election officials.
- Make comments to the media on the substance of their observations.
Who do I contact if I have questions?

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Radivoje Grujic
radivoje.grujic@odihr.pl

U.S. Department of State
Office of European Security and Political Affairs
(202) 736-7445
We want to hear from you!

- How can we work together to address any potential concerns?
- Does your state have any best practices to share?
- How can we help promote your state for warmly welcoming observers?
- What additional information would be useful to you and to poll workers in your state?
Want to serve as an OSCE election observer?

- The United States is a top provider of OSCE international election observers
- On-going opportunities across Europe and Eurasia
- Apply online: www.pae.com/career-react-opportunities
Thank you for your help sharing the best of American democracy with the world!