



Election Monitoring

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The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division monitors election-day activities throughout the country to help assess compliance with federal voting rights laws. The Civil Rights Division undertakes this monitoring using either Justice Department personnel or federal observers.

Election Monitoring by Justice Department Personnel

The Civil Rights Division uses Justice Department personnel to monitor polling places on election day to help assess compliance with the federal voting rights laws around the country, including for example the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Help America Vote Act. The Division may assign one or more attorneys and staff members to monitor the election in the field on election day and maintain contact with state and local officials. The Division monitors elections around the country, including in both federal and non-federal elections.

Election Monitoring by Federal Observers

The Voting Rights Act provides for the appointment of federal observers by order of a federal court pursuant to Section 3(a). The monitoring of elections by federal observers is an important aspect of the Division's voting rights enforcement efforts. The success of the federal observer program is made possible by the long-term commitment of Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to recruit, train, and supervise these federal observers, who serve as neutral and impartial observers of election-day procedures.

Pursuant to Section 3(a) of the Voting Rights Act, federal observers are currently authorized in four political subdivisions in three states by federal court order: Alaska (2), Louisiana (1), and New Jersey (1).

Political subdivisions that are eligible for federal observers as a result of court orders under the Voting Rights Act:



State	Subdivision	Terms
Alaska	Dillingham Census Area Wade Hampton/Kusilvak Census Area	8/31/23 order, effective until 12/31/24
Louisiana	St. Landry Parish	12/5/79 order, effective "until further order of this Court"
New Jersey	Union County	6/12/23 order, effective until 12/31/26
Rhode Island	Pawtucket	7/30/2024 order, effective until 7/30/2029

How to Request Monitoring of an Election by the Civil Rights Division

- Contact the Voting Section at:
Phone: 202-307-2767
Toll-free: 800-253-3931
- Provide specific and detailed information regarding the need for a federal presence, including:
 - Any incidents of discrimination or interference with the right to vote in connection with upcoming or recent elections;
 - Any complaints to local or state officials about the incidents and what, if anything, was done in response;
 - Names and contact information for victims of discrimination or other violations of federal voting rights law;
 - Names and contact information for any persons who have first-hand knowledge of the incidents;
 - Names and contact information, if possible, for persons alleged to have engaged in discrimination or other violations of federal voting rights law;
 - Locations where incidents have occurred.
 - As much lead time as possible is important in order to permit pre-election investigations and to make logistical and staffing arrangements.