

Findings from the 2025 Municipal Elections

Observe New Mexico Elections



Prepared by Single Space Strategies in collaboration with ONME

Executive Summary

Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME) is a nonpartisan election observation effort designed to increase trust and transparency in New Mexico's elections. This year, ONME observed elections in eleven municipalities in New Mexico: Alamogordo (Otero), Albuquerque (Bernalillo), Carlsbad (Eddy), Clayton (Union), Farmington (San Juan), Gallup (McKinley), Las Cruces (Doña Ana), Las Vegas, Santa Fe (Santa Fe), and Taos (Taos).

Overall, the processes observed were conducted transparently, smoothly, and with limited problems. In an effort to encourage continuous improvement, observers noted a number of items that counties and the state may wish to revisit to ensure that every stage of the electoral process runs as intended; that every eligible voter who wishes to cast a vote can do so with the resources, access, and knowledge they may need; and that processes are consistent and transparent throughout the state, counties, and voting locations.

Below are the highlights and recommendations by topic area. Where applicable, we list both findings and recommendations.

Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative:

One of the goals of ONME's election observations is to educate observers on a local level so that they can better understand the election process and share knowledge with their communities. We therefore collected information from observers to assess how they felt about the observation experience, what they learned, and what they felt should or could be improved.

Findings:

- Overall, the majority of ONME observers felt that they have a better understanding of the electoral process after conducting their observations.
- Almost all observers (97%) felt their experience was very positive or positive. Almost all observers (97%) felt very or somewhat prepared.
- Many observers shared that they learned something new, including how complex the electoral process is and how hard election workers are working. Most importantly, for many, observing increased their self-reported trust in the electoral process.

Poll Worker Training:

Poll worker trainings train prospective poll workers on their duties and responsibilities at polling locations. This is a critical step to ensure poll workers understand voter rights voters, can step in to appropriately protect voters and themselves when needed, understand how to correctly operate and troubleshoot election technology, know how to set up and close voting locations in accordance with statutory procedures, and understand their roles and responsibilities. Observers assess how accessible the training is, what content is covered in typical poll worker trainings, and whether the training environment is conducive to learning. Observations took place between September 26 – October 29, 2025 in eleven municipalities and counties.

Findings:

- Overall, poll worker trainings were conducted in an orderly and calm environment with no major issues.
- The observed training venues were very accessible.
- The training environment was consistently described as not overcrowded allowing observers to see and hear training clearly.
- There was some variability in training content. Content on opening and operating polling locations was provided at every training observed, and many of the observed locations provided training on use and troubleshooting of election equipment as well as ballot and voting procedures. However, only a little over half of observed trainings covered the topic areas of voter protection and electioneering or language access.

Recommendations:

- We recommend wider and more consistent coverage of training on electioneering and language access content in poll worker trainings.

Logic and Accuracy Testing:

Logic and accuracy testing (L&A) or voting machine certification is a multi-day process where election equipment is tested. ONME observers attended at least one complete day of testing in each of the sites observed, with some observers attending on multiple days. During their observations, observers sought to assess how accessible testing sites were, the type(s) of equipment being tested on the day of their observation, testing outcomes and the testing environment. Observations took place between September 23 – October 24, 2025 in eleven municipalities and counties.

Findings:

- Overall, the logic and accuracy Testing (L&A) sites observed by ONME observers conducted testing in a calm and orderly environment.
- Six out of eleven observed sites were highly accessible. However, the remaining five sites ranged in accessibility. Particularly the McKinley site had none of the accessibility features we asked about, while both the Doña Ana and Otero County sites only had an obstacle-free path from parking to entrance.
- All sites had staff available to answer questions during L&A testing. However, only one location had signage indicating how to find the testing location.
- A small number of political party observers and members of the media were present during L&A testing observed by ONME. The Otero County observer noted both challenges/objections and attempts at intimidation, while the Bernalillo County observer noted disruptions to the testing process.

Recommendations:

- Election officials preparing L&A testing sites may wish to add more obvious signage and space for the general public to ensure those wishing to observe testing can do so.

Early In-Person Voting:

Early In-Person Voting sites allow voters to vote before Election Day. It is still critical that these polling locations follow proper conduct that includes opening when they are supposed to, having all necessary equipment and instruction set up upon opening, ensuring language access in line with legal requirements, and properly securing ballots and documents at the end of the day so that a proper chain of custody is maintained. ONME observers observed this process between October 18 – November 1st, 2025 at 38 polling locations in eleven municipalities.

Findings:

- All observed locations opened on time: a testament to the consistency, hard work and professionalism of election workers across New Mexico.
- Almost all observed locations were highly accessible.
- Accessible voting systems were available at all observed locations.
- Cases of equipment malfunctions were resolved quickly, allowing voting to continue without significant interruptions.
- Although every location that ONME observed had both English and Spanish language materials, none of the locations mandated by the Voting Rights Act to have materials in Navajo (Diné), Pueblo languages, or Ute (which, from our observations, include Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan counties) had any of the languages they were required to have available. This absence directly violates the VRA's language assistance provisions.
- All voters with disabilities who requested an assistant of their choosing were allowed to have an assistant accompany them to vote.
- Observers saw strong adherence to documentation and reconciliation practices across observed locations.

Recommendations:

- Language access expansions are critical, particularly in locations that are required by federal law and/or state law to provide access. We recommend that every location ensures that materials are available in the legally required languages.

Election Day

On Election Day, ONME observers observe similar processes as they do during Early In-Person Voting, meaning they observe whether polling locations follow proper conduct that includes opening when they are supposed to, having all necessary equipment and instruction set up upon opening, ensuring language access in line with legal requirements, and properly securing ballots and documents at the end of the day so that a proper chain of custody is maintained. ONME observers observed this process on November 4, 2025 at 106 polling places in eleven municipalities.

Findings:

- Most locations were highly accessible.
- Almost all locations (98%) opened early or on time. The remaining locations noted that late openings were due to issues outside of poll workers' control.
- Most locations posted critical voting information and instructions, including how to cast a valid vote, opening hours, official contacts for voting rights violations, requesting a new ballot, and information on voter fraud.
- Although state law requires both English and Spanish language materials, materials were only available in English at four locations of the locations observed. Of the locations mandated by the Voting Rights Act to have materials in Navajo (Diné), Pueblo languages, or Ute (which, from our observations, include Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan counties), only two locations, both in Albuquerque, had materials in Native and other languages. One location in Las Cruces, that is not mandated by the VRA, also had materials in Native and other languages. The absence of Native language materials in any location in Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan counties directly violates the VRA's language assistance provisions.
- The midday report showed that any staffing and equipment issues were relatively isolated in nature.
- Long lines/wait times were not a pronounced concern on Election Day. Observers in 8% of all observed locations (one in Alamogordo, two in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, one in Gallup, two in Santa Fe, and one in Silver City) observed prospective voters leaving the voting locations due to the length of the lines.
- All voters with a regular ballot placed their voted ballots in an electronic vote tabulator before exiting the voting location.
- Observers reported very high compliance with ballot security procedures. Almost all locations observed that polling locations followed established chain of custody procedures, maintained ballot security, conducted a reconciliation of ballots cast at the end of the day with proper documentation, completed required reporting, and appropriately segregated ballots such as provisional ballots, spoiled ballots or absentee ballots from those that had been counted by the electronic vote tabulators. In addition, transparency of these procedures was generally maintained.

Recommendations:

- Several incidents of harassment, disruptions, interference/manipulation, and electioneering were reported. It is important to note that electioneering was one of the less consistently observed items to be covered in poll worker training, and we recommend that every training prepare workers to handle electioneering.
- Language access expansions are critical, particularly in locations that are required by federal law and/or state law to provide access. We recommend that every location ensures that materials are available in the languages which they are required to provide.

Absentee Ballot Processing:

Absentee ballot processing is where absentee ballots are received, prepared for counting, tabulated, sealed, and stored by trained election workers at county election offices or designated counting facilities. ONME observers are asked to observe the accessibility of the venue, environment for ballot processing, and the many steps to ensure that ballots are accurately counted and handled securely. Observations took place between

October 27–November 3, 2025 in Albuquerque (Bernalillo), Las Cruces (Doña Ana), and Santa Fe (Santa Fe).

Findings:

- Observers who monitored the accessibility of the testing venue, environment for ballot processing, ballot receipting / examination, ballot sorting, ballot pre-processing and tabulation, and the conduct of other actors in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe reported seeing proper protocol followed and no problematic conduct from observers or election officials. Ballot processing was carried out in a highly secure and professional manner.

Certification of Results:

During the County Canvass, observers similarly evaluated the accessibility of venues, the environment in which results certification took place, procedures followed, and whether or not results were ultimately certified. These observations help to provide a better understanding of whether any concerns were raised regarding the announced outcomes at a local level and prior to state certification. Observations took place between November 10 – November 20, 2025 in ten counties.

Findings:

- Overall, county canvass certifications went smoothly in all locations observed, with no issues being raised, no inconsistencies or discrepancies reported, and no major objections to the certification of results.
- Only one location in Union County reported that a candidate requested a recount (in the mayoral race), which will go through the District Courts.

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Introduction - The 2025 Municipal Election

Regular Local Elections (also referred to in this report as municipal elections) determine who leads city council districts, towns, cities, school boards and many other important local offices. Despite their importance, these elections tend to draw fewer voters and less attention from media and civic organizations than statewide or federal contests even though local governments carry significant responsibility for implementing policy and delivering services. In 2025, Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME) chose to observe a geographically and politically diverse mix of urban and rural municipalities.

In November 2025, voters across New Mexico cast ballots for mayors, city councilors, school board members, and other local offices. Observe New Mexico Elections monitored eleven municipalities that opted in to the [2018 Local Election Act](#), which consolidated most local elections into a uniform November schedule and placed their administration under county clerks. These elections follow the same statewide procedures and election handbook used for statewide and federal contests, promoting consistency for voters and poll workers.

For many communities, 2025 was only the second or third cycle under this consolidated schedule. Counties continued to implement the requirements of the Local Election Act, including standardized early voting periods, ballot styles, and procedures for administering same-day voter registration. Across observed sites, election administration was generally smooth, with county clerks consistently adhering to the standard processes that govern all statewide elections.

Methodology

Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME) is a nonpartisan effort created to strengthen trust and transparency in our state elections. ONME trains voters from all 33 counties to observe electoral procedures and report impartially on what they see. ONME's reports create a data-driven assessment of elections in New Mexico, observing how processes are implemented in accordance with the law.

In 2024, ONME was launched to observe election processes statewide. On election day in 2024, 160 observers observed in 29 counties from before opening to after the close of polls. During the early voting period, 91 early voting sites were observed across the state. Overall, observers found that early voting in New Mexico was accessible, professional, and well-managed in most locations. They also noted where improvements could be made to ensure voters in every community have equal access particularly with respect staffing, language support, ballot availability, and consistent use of accessible equipment.

When contemplating how to approach nonpartisan observation of elections in 2025, ONME staff agreed that there was a rare opportunity to learn more about the election process by taking the time to understand how local elections were administered. We also decided to hone our process by focusing on improving our data collection systems, observation materials, training design and identifying other improvements that could streamline our internal processes. As most locations offered far fewer polling places in the Regular Local Elections (with the notable exception of Bernalillo County, which added a few more locations in 2025), we decided to monitor elections in eleven municipalities across the state.

Many counties in New Mexico consolidated nonpartisan elections under the Local Elections Act of 2018 (LEA), combining elections for several types of non-partisan races (i.e. mayoral, city councilors, school and community college boards). County clerks administer these elections following the same procedures required for federal elections. New Mexico municipalities that have not opted into the LEA use a different calendar than the schedule followed for the consolidated elections. This means that elections might be held at different times of year across the state. In order to ensure that ONME could track similar processes taking place across the state in the most efficient manner, we chose to focus our nonpartisan election observations in municipalities that had opted into the Local Elections Act.

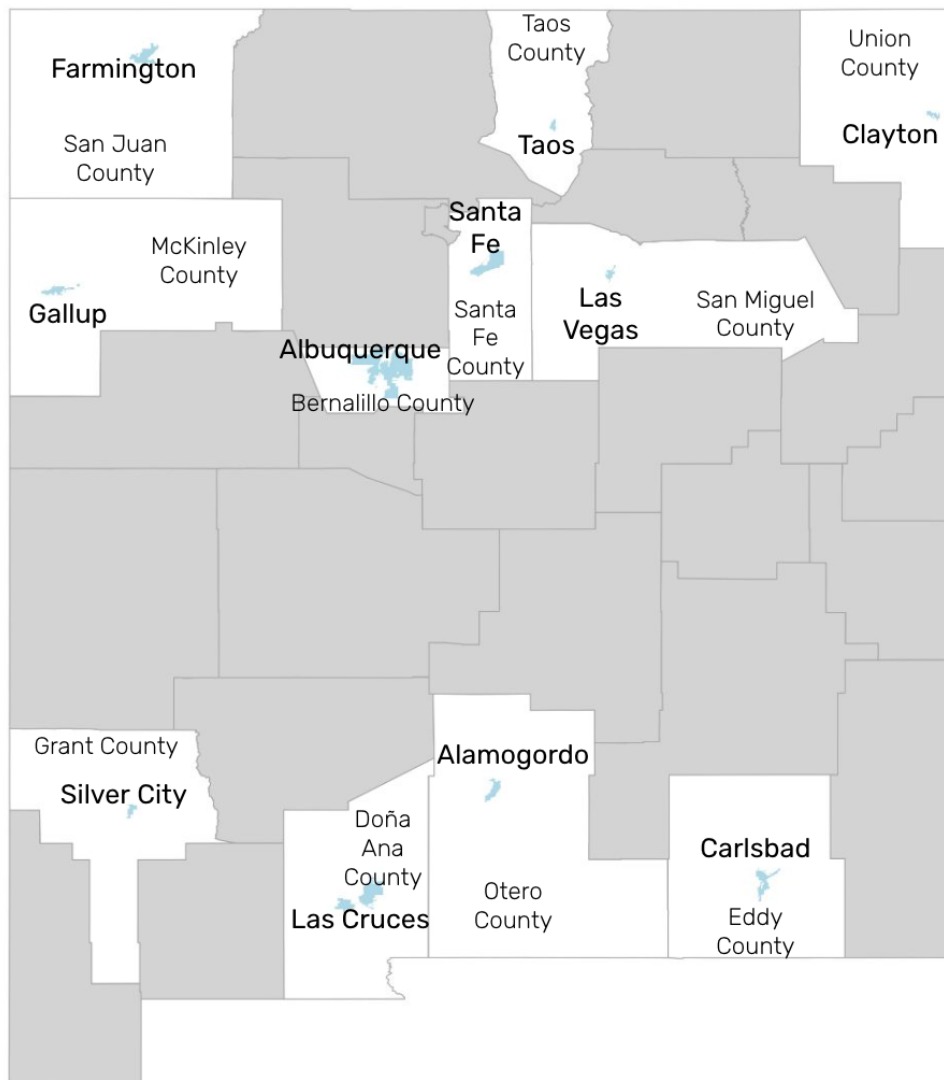
The New Mexico Secretary of State's Office approved ONME's application to serve as an election-related organization to observe the 2025 elections in July 2025. Next, ONME worked with the Secretary of State's Office to obtain formal approval for our observers to serve as nonpartisan election watchers on behalf of our project according to state rules and regulations.

When considering where to focus our observation efforts during the 2025 Regular Local Elections, we strove for diversity in terms of geography, ethnicity and culture, urban versus rural locations, population density, and partisan leanings in order to gather data that would be representative of how elections are run in a variety of contexts across the state. Since this was our second year conducting election observation, we also chose locations in which we hoped to strengthen relationships both with voters and county clerk's offices.

We ultimately selected eleven municipalities in which to observe the election processes we wanted to track. We were pleased to be able to recruit skilled municipal coordinators willing and excited to bring on observers in every corner of the state, in large and small municipalities, in locations that voted primarily Republican or Democrat. The eleven municipalities are listed below and the dispersal of their locations are shown on the map.

1. Alamogordo
2. Albuquerque
3. Carlsbad
4. Clayton
5. Farmington
6. Gallup
7. Las Cruces
8. Las Vegas
9. Santa Fe
10. Silver City
11. Taos

The Eleven Municipalities Observed During the 2025 Municipal Election



The organizational structure of Observe New Mexico Elections' 2025 effort included:

- 111 nonpartisan election observers in 11 municipalities, each of whom was a registered voter in their respective county;
- 11 municipal coordinators who recruited and trained the observers and completed between five and seven observations;
- 18 data clerks who were trained on the new data collection system, and who communicated with the 111 observers in real time on Election Day for clarification and updated reporting;
- A project management team (comprised of the two state leads, the outreach coordinator and liaisons from The Carter Center, which provides funding, technical expertise, risk management and foundational support);
- New Mexico partners The Garrity Group (public relations, web design), the New Mexico Community Foundation (in-state fiscal sponsor) and Single Space Strategies (data analysis and reporting, forms, checklists and guide design and other high-level, back-end support); and
- A six-member, bipartisan Advisory Board.

Eleven Municipal Coordinators underwent rigorous ONME-led training for each of the election processes they observed, in addition to the mandatory training required by the Secretary of State's office for all election observers and watchers in 2025. Municipal Coordinators worked closely with ONME staff to recruit and train observers and also liaised with the county clerk's office overseeing the local elections for their municipalities to stay up to date on where and when certain election processes would take place so they could be there to observe.

The six election processes we set out to observe in each municipality were as follows:

- Voting Machine Certification (also called Logic & Accuracy Testing)
- Poll Worker Training
- Early Voting
- Election Day Voting
- Absentee Ballot Tabulation, where it was conducted (Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe)
- County Canvass Results Certification.

ONME nonpartisan election observers collected data at the polls during early voting and on election day, and the Municipal Coordinators observed between four and six of the election processes (conducting between five and seven unique observations) personally, depending on whether they would conduct observations on absentee ballot processing, and on whether they would observe or support their team of observers on election day (in municipalities with only a handful of polling places, coordinators often observed election day voting).

Each of the 111 nonpartisan election observers were registered voters in the county in which they observed, possessed valid driver's licenses so they could transport themselves safely to and from their polling location, and were required to attend both ONME and Secretary of State training sessions. Their day started early (half an hour before the polls opened) and ended late (they left the polling locations after tabulation concluded). They wore an ONME observation vest and lanyard, and kept detailed notes on their paper checklists, from which they would enter their observation data into an online form immediately after their observation. It is their data from which most of the information in this report was developed. Every ONME election observer signed the ONME Code of Conduct. Single Space Strategies led operations at the data center, which was set up in a local hotel conference room and provided the project management team with up-to-date information for the advisory board and public communications.



This report shares findings from ONME’s nonpartisan observations conducted in eleven municipalities in New Mexico that opted into the Local Election Act. The findings offer a grounded look at how the Local Election Act operates in practice and where additional clarity and consistency could strengthen transparency and public trust in future elections.

Data Collection Overview

ONME placed observers during the pre-election, election, and post-election periods across the state to monitor how New Mexico’s election laws, procedures, and safeguards are followed.

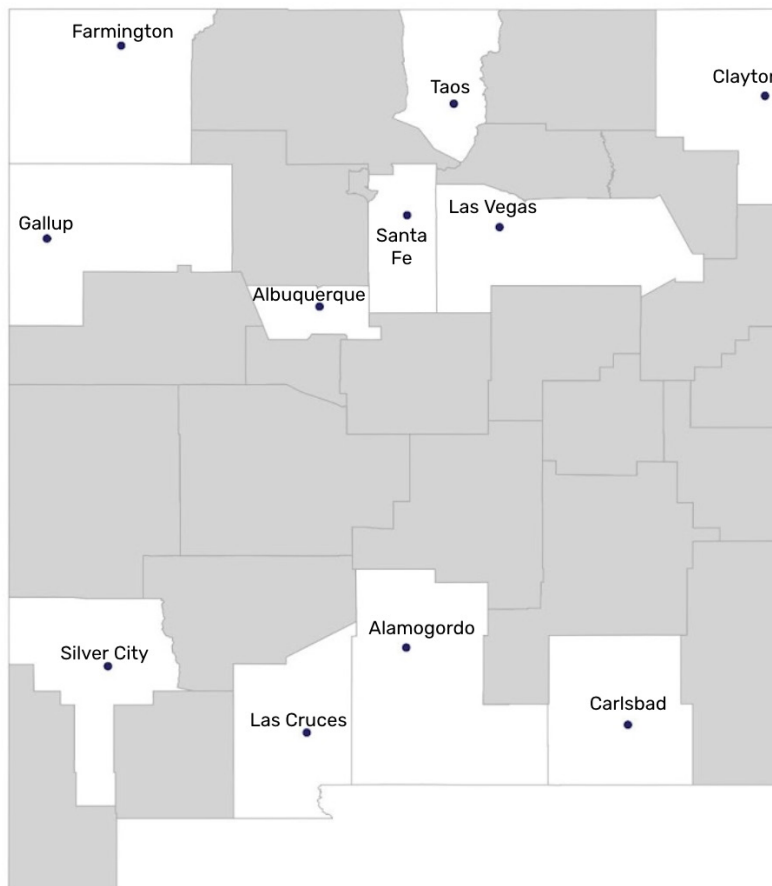
Observe New Mexico Elections divided the observable election process into three distinct phases: Pre-Election, Election, and Post-Election, as illustrated in the below graphic. During the pre-election phase, ONME election observers monitored Poll Worker Training between September 26 – October 29, 2025, and Logic and Accuracy Testing or Machine Certification between September 23 – October 24, 2025. Early In-Person Voting was observed between October 18 – November 1st, 2025 and Election Day observations took place on Election Day on November 4, 2025. Absentee Ballot Processing was monitored between October 27–November 3, 2025, and the County Canvass Certification of Results were observed between November 10 – November 20, 2025.

Dates of Data Collection

Election Phase	Election Process 1	September (weeks)			October (weeks)				November (weeks)			
		2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Pre-Election	Logic and Accuracy Testing				■	■	■	■	■			
	Poll Worker Training				■	■	■	■	■			
Election	Early In-Person Voting					■	■	■	■	■		
	Election Day								■			
Post-Election	Absentee Ballot Processing								■	■		
	Certification of Results									■	■	

Observers monitored relevant election processes in the following municipalities (illustrated on the map, below): Alamogordo in Otero County, Albuquerque in Bernalillo County, Carlsbad in Eddy County, Clayton in Union County, Farmington in San Juan County, Gallup in McKinley County, Las Cruces in Doña Ana County, Las Vegas in San Miguel County, Santa Fe in Santa Fe County, Silver City in Grant County, and Taos in Taos County. The findings are analyzed and summarized below, referring to both the counties and the municipalities in which the elections took place.

The Eleven Municipalities Observed During the 2025 Municipal Election



For each stage of the electoral process, observers were asked to record their observations onto a detailed paper checklist. They were later asked to input into a web-based form provided by ONME. A discrete checklist was developed for each election process to be observed (poll worker training, logic and accuracy testing, early in-person voting, Election Day voting, absentee ballot processing, and certification of election results). The checklists are included in the appendix, and are also linked in each respective section in this report.

After recording their observations onto their paper checklists, ONME election observers were asked to retain

their paper copies to allow for cross-checking results and identification of any input errors if contacted by a member of the data center team. From the data center ONME conducted follow up texts and phone calls with observers to clarify in the event of any inconsistencies in observer reporting and to validate findings with additional information as-needed.

Election observers were not allowed to take photos or videos at any time while they were in an election office or inside a voting location; therefore, their observations were limited to data recorded onto the paper checklists and subsequently submitted via the online forms.

Observers were furnished with handy guides for early in-person and Election Day voting that confirmed information communicated during observation training (also available at observenmelections.org). The guides also included contact information for ONME coordinators and staff to whom to report critical incidents that, if unaddressed, could have created serious impacts on the credibility of the election process or could have prevented a substantial number of voters from casting a ballot. Observers were also instructed to leave the observation location to ensure their safety if they felt unsafe or uncomfortable at any point.

It is important to note that the checklist questions focused on elements the election observers should be able to see, experience, or get information about from election officials they interacted with while onsite. However, not every observer was able to observe every element of the process that they were asked to monitor. This means that when a lack of observations for given checklist items is listed in this report, it may not necessarily mean that certain events did not happen, but rather that the observers did not witness them themselves or were unable to verify them by asking officials. While this may present some limitations of the data, ONME has worked on minimizing human error to the best of its ability by providing election observers with extensive training, guides, and checklists and putting quality control mechanisms in place, including using checklists that asked observers for additional information if they provided an unusual or unexpected response, having options for observers to report if they were unable to observe a particular aspect of the process in question, and a data analysis team that used a thorough system of logical checks to analyze observer responses and follow up to confirm or collect additional information when needed.

ONME is committed to ensuring that elections are transparent, and this also means that we are transparent about issues we encounter in our own data collection process. We continuously refine our training and materials (such as guides and checklists) to ensure that the data we collect is the best quality it can be and are committed to transparency about issues we see in our data.

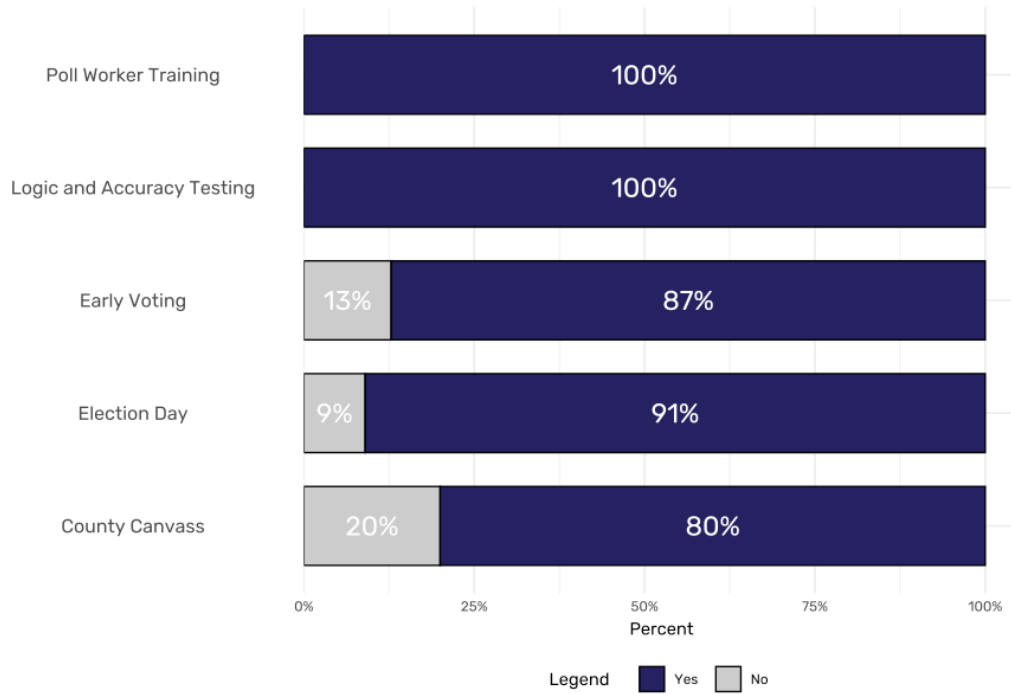
Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative

In addition to contributing to election transparency, election observation also serves as an important civic engagement initiative for the ONME observers themselves. We therefore asked observers whether their observation experience contributed to them having a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico, and if so, in what ways.

Overall, observers found that their observation experience contributed to them having a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All those who observed poll worker training and logic and accuracy testing felt that it improved their understanding of the electoral process.

Most observers monitoring early voting and election day felt this way as well, with 87% of early voting observers and 91% of observers on election day stating they had gained a better understanding of the electoral process. Finally, 80% of the county canvass observers felt that it improved their understanding of the electoral process. It is important to note that one of the two observers who felt observing the county canvass and results certification did not improve their understanding of the electoral process in the state had already observed the county canvass / certification meeting the year before.

As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico?



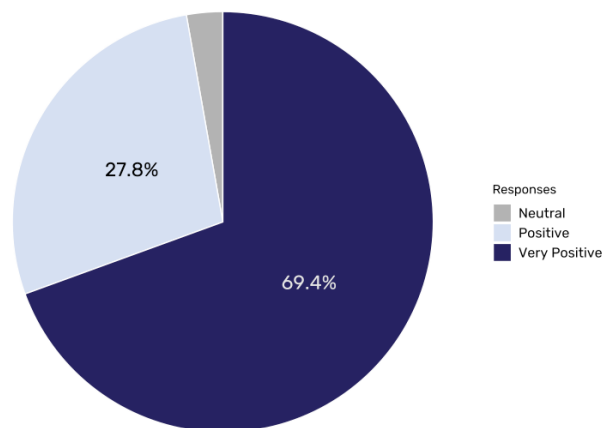
Experience as an ONME Observer

Election Day observers were further given a survey to assess how their experience post-observation. Observers were asked:

- How they would rate their experience as an ONME observer
- How prepared they felt for their observation
- If they had trouble submitting online forms
- If they were interested in participating again next year

Overall, election day observers reported that their experience as an ONME observer on election day was positive. In fact, 97.2% of respondents reported to have had a very positive or positive experience observing on election day. Most respondents, 69.4% specifically, evaluated their experience to have been very positive. 2.8% of respondents (or one respondent) felt that their experience was neutral. There were no negative responses.

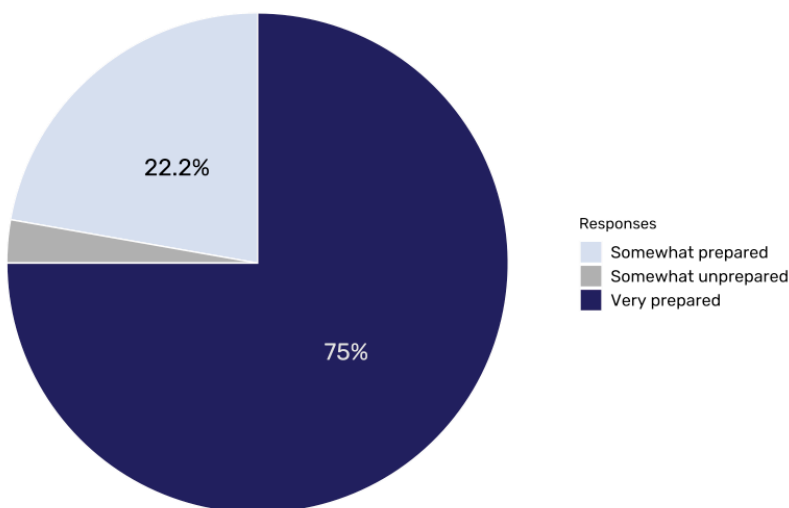
Experience as an ONME Observer



Preparedness for Observation

ONME observers who observed on Election Day were further asked whether they felt prepared to observe. Similarly to the above response regarding the value of their experience, most (97.2%) observers felt that they were prepared to observe voting on Election Day (either very or somewhat). 75% of observers felt very prepared and 22.2% felt somewhat prepared. One observer, or 2.8% of respondents, felt somewhat unprepared. ONME conducted a follow-up interview process with observers, including those who felt only somewhat prepared or somewhat unprepared, to learn from their experience and improve training for future observation efforts.

Preparedness to be an ONME Observer



This year, we included a number of qualitative measures to give our observers a chance to share what worked well and what they felt could be improved. Overwhelmingly, responses were positive and showed that observers both learned something new, and that the observation effort increased their trust in the election process.

Learned Something New

Many observers explained that the observation taught them something new. This included an increased understanding of the complexity of the electoral process and the hard work of election workers as well as a greater appreciation for the vast number of ballot types that exist. We were fortunate to welcome returning observers who had observed the process the previous year, which allowed us to track how their learning progressed.

The Complexity of the Electoral Process and the Hard Work of Election Workers

One theme that emerged was that the observation process helped observers better understand how complex the electoral process actually is and how much time and commitment goes into the work.

One observer, for example, explained how observing various processes (such as the Logic and Accuracy Testing) and spending time with election workers improved their understanding of how equipment is used and how it works, and how the elections as a whole operate:

“Being able to observe voters in action and to see the questions they have, how smoothly the process happened, if they were happy to have voted, all leads to a greater understanding of the whole voting endeavor. The opportunity to observe things [on] the back end with L&A testing really helped me understand what equipment is used and how it works. Spending time with the poll workers, the [Presiding Judge], etc. gives so much more understanding to their roles in the whole election machine, and their commitment to the process.”

Another observer, noting that this election was a local election and hence much smaller in scale than a general election, remarked on the high-stress elements in the work election officials do and resolved to not add to that stress in the future by voting early or through an absentee ballot:

“I learned that even at a small polling site in a municipal election, there are moments of stress, especially at the end of a long day during the ballot counting and preparation for return. I cannot imagine how truly stressful this process would be on poll workers of a very busy poll site, in a closely contested state or federal election with lots of observers and watchers. So I much more firmly believe in voting early or absentee ballots now.”

Similarly, and also related to how observation increases trust, which will be addressed below, another observer shared the many roles election officials take on:

“I learned that the election process involves many steps, and requires complex knowledge for the election workers. The Presiding Judge plays a critical role as problem solver, arbiter and leader during the process. The checks and double checks during the ballot counting and preparation of returns ensure that errors rarely if ever, occur.”

Finally, another observer shared how this process gave them rare insights to which many regular voters would not have access:

“Most people are decent community members, and I see the election officials doing their best to be of service to voters. It’s a complex system that most voters will never know about.”

How Many Different Ballot Types There Are

Another theme that emerged was how through the observation process, observers developed a stronger understanding of the types of ballots that are used in elections and how they work. As one observer noted, for example:

“I’ve been through regular voting as a voter for many years, but didn’t know much about how all the other types of ballots worked.”

Participation in Multi-Year Observations Increases Understanding

Another theme we identified was that observers who had observed multiple times (sometimes across this and last year) felt that increased observations ameliorated their knowledge and understanding of the election process.

For example, multiple observers explained that they felt they learned even more through each observation in which they participated:

“I know a little more than I knew last year, it’s getting better each year.”

“2nd year doing this, so becoming more and more familiar with the processes with each observation.”

“Every time I see the process I learn more of the actual process to completion.”

Another observer, also with experience observing last year, shared how being able to observe multiple times gave them the space to be more critical as well:

“Whereas last year I marveled [sic] at the entire process, I was more critical of the little things this time around. I believe we need younger staff and volunteers.”

Finally, another observer who had observed three different times explained how, with each observation, they felt they gained a better understanding of the process:

“This was my 3rd opportunity to observe the process, including the 2024 general election, early voting last week and today’s election. Each time, I gained a better understanding for how to conduct an election process that is voter-centered and stands up to scrutiny from all corners. I learned today that voters seem to appreciate a process that privileges their needs (including a ballot they can comprehend, a process that encourages their participation, and the opportunity to vote as citizens in a democracy.) I am again impressed by the dedication of the election workers as well as their knowledge and their eagerness to serve the voters. They make me want to learn more.”

Increased Trust in the Process

Another common theme was that through observation, observers felt an increased awareness of transparency and trust in the electoral process. By observing the extent of work and rigor that goes into every aspect of the election and the secureness of the process, many observers felt a renewed sense of how safe and fair elections are in our state.

Below is a short list of examples in this vein that observers shared:

“After completing the project, I’m always amazed to see how much work goes into the election process and for safe keeping the integrity of the election process.”

“It was helpful to observe the pre and post polling place practices to verify the security of all ballots cast.”

“This is a very transparent process with many fail safe checks. We definitely have free and fair elections in NM.”

“I learned that the voting process is extremely secure and fair.”

“I was able to see what happens to the ballots, the memory storage and the several printed copies of the results and that with them all going to different locations, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the results to be altered due to how many people (offices) receive the results in different formats.”

“After tonight I have even more trust in the process between the transparency of the poll workers and presiding judge and the chain of custody for the ballots, I don’t believe it’s possible [to commit] voter fraud.”

“Seeing the work up close, and the dedication and expertise of the officials inspired a lot of confidence, and gave a detailed picture of the overall process.”

“I could see how carefully the election workers tried to follow all the rules to keep our elections fair.”

Areas of Improvement

A small number of observers shared experiences with either the observation process itself or with ONME where they were more critical.

Two observers shared that they felt more critical of the electoral process after observing. The first observer noted that they felt that voters with disabilities were not given the same opportunity to vote easily as those without:

“My major takeaway is that people with certain disabilities are not given the same opportunity to vote as easily and efficiently as others. The machine used to help them cast their ballot is outdated with old programming that none of the poll workers were trained on, in addition the extra measures that were taken to help the disabled was still biased towards people who are not disabled. I will definitely be back next year and I really hope that we have instituted a new process so that everyone gets equal access to vote. Are we behind the times or does every state use the same machines?”

Reflecting back on the data ONME collected in each respective section, this criticism may be warranted. For example, while accessibility of the venues was fairly high for the most part, some locations were not as ac-

cessible as they could be. Additionally, information about accessible voting systems was not always publicly displayed, the accessible voting systems were less consistently clearly set up across multiple locations, and procedures for voters with disabilities may not have been as consistently followed as they could. Although, overall, requests for assistance of voters with disabilities tended to be limited in number where our observers were stationed, ONME strongly recommends that every location, regardless of the typical number of requests for assistance they have historically received, continues to strive towards greater accessibility to ensure that every voter can easily vote with the least amount of constraints.

Another observer explained that they felt that perhaps the small number of workers may leave room for human error. As the observer explained:

“It showed how a couple determined volunteers are the crew responsible for executing the election process to the adherence of election law and regulations. It does open room for human errors.”

Human error is always a possibility with any procedures and conducts overseen by humans, as are machine and computing errors that are conducted by machines and computers. To minimize the impact of human errors, ONME recommends that every polling location is staffed by at least two people.¹ While even with multiple people present, human errors can occur and may be unavoidable, more people leave room for double checking and minimizing human error as much as possible.

Pre-Election

Poll Worker Training

Highlights in Poll Worker Training

- Overall, Poll Worker Trainings were conducted in an orderly and calm environment with no major issues.
- The observed training venues were very accessible.
- The training environment was consistently described as not overcrowded allowing observers to see and hear training clearly.
- There was some variability in training content. Content on opening and operating polling locations was provided at every training observed, and many of the observed locations provided training on use and troubleshooting of election equipment as well as ballot and voting procedures. However, only a little over half of observed trainings covered the topic areas of voter protection/electioneering or language access.

Poll workers play an important role in ensuring that eligible voters can cast their votes during elections. During elections, their duties include “setting up the voting equipment, opening and closing polling locations, checking in voters, verifying IDs,² answering voters’ questions, ensuring election rules are followed, and making sure that every ballot is submitted and secured.”³ Poll workers in the state of New Mexico must be registered to vote, be residents of the county where they serve as poll workers, and undergo training in order to work.⁴

Observe New Mexico Elections mobilized observers to monitor poll worker training in eleven counties and municipalities between the dates of September 26, 2025–October 29, 2025, depending on the availability of training in each county.

1 The United States Election Assistance Commission recommends that election officials complete all tasks in teams of at least two as an election security best practice. https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-security-preparedness#_Election_Security_Resources

2 In New Mexico, provision of physical voter identification is a requirement to register to vote. However, verbal voter identification is sufficient for individuals already registered to vote.

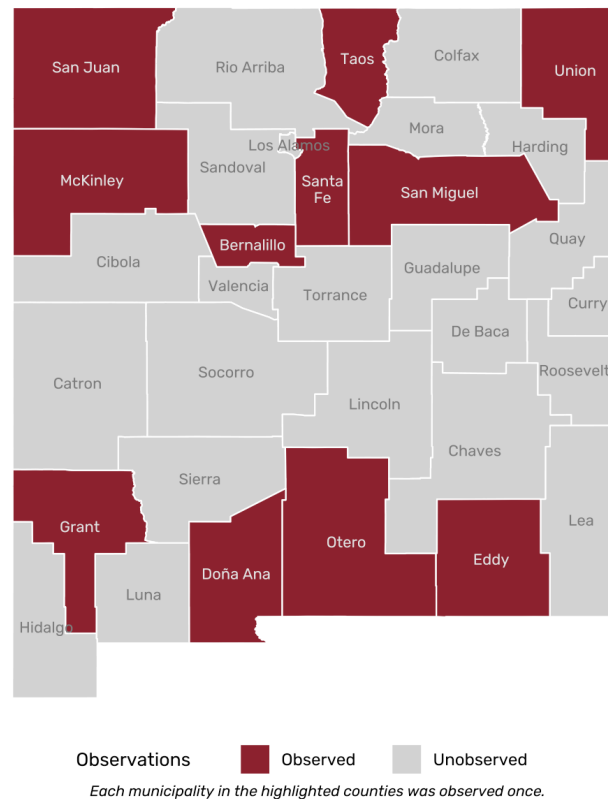
3 <https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/democracy/georgia/ga-voter-faqs-become-a-poll-worker.pdf>

4 https://ballotpedia.org/Poll_worker_requirements_in_New_Mexico

Data Collection Overview

ONME observers were present at poll worker trainings in eleven counties between the dates of September 26, 2025–October 29, 2025–Otero, Bernalillo, Eddy, Union, San Juan, McKinley, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, McKinley, Otero, Farmington, Las Vegas, Santa Fe and Taos.

Counties in Which Poll Worker Training Was Observed



Each ONME observer was given a checklist with a total of 68 questions, which covered the following areas:

- Accessibility of the Training Venue
- Training Environment
- Training Content, including:
 - Opening and Operating the Polling Location
 - Equipment and Troubleshooting
 - Accessibility
 - Language Access
 - Voter Eligibility and Check-in
 - Voter Protection and Electioneering
 - Ballot and Voting Procedures
 - Election Observers and Law Enforcement
 - Closing and Post-Election Procedures
- Improved Observer Understanding of Electoral Process⁵

The full checklist that observers were provided, and the response options are in Appendix 1.

⁵ Each observer, at each stage of the process they observed, was asked whether the observation experience resulted in a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All of those findings are summarized in the section on “Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative” and will not be further discussed in the other sections.

Accessibility of the Training

Approach to Monitoring Accessibility

- **Review of accessibility training:** during the observation of poll worker training on accessibility, observers noted whether trainers addressed: accessible voting equipment, voter assistance, language access, and accommodations for voters with disabilities.
- **Observation of physical access:** observers assessed whether voting venues included common accessibility features, such as: accessible parking, obstacle-free paths, clearly marked and unlocked accessible entrances. Observers documented both the presence and absence of these features.
- **Observation of accessibility setup:** observers assessed whether voting venues had properly prepared the accessible voting systems. This included having the accessible voting machines available, set up, turned on, with instructions posted, and tested beforehand. Observers documented if venues did one or all of these requirements.
- **Advocacy informed practice:** in addition to monitoring compliance with state and federal requirements, ONME instructed observers to look for accessibility measures and practices commonly recommended by disability advocacy groups.

Ensuring that poll worker training is accessible to all who wish to partake is critical to the democratic process. This includes making training accessible for people with disabilities.⁶ To assess this, observers were asked what accessibility items they observed. The items included the following:

- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.
- A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.

In total, this section includes five questions (Question 1-5 in [Appendix 1](#)). Overall, as the table shows, training venues were consistently accessible except for Alamogordo in Otero County. Every other training venue had all of the above-listed items. The training venue in Alamogordo only had accessible parking spots.

Accessibility of Training Venue	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farrington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Accessible parking spots												11
Obstacle-free path from parking to entrance												10
Clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance												10
Wheelchair-accessible main entrance												10
Unlocked wheelchair-accessible entrance												10
Total content items observed by location	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	

Training Environment and Content Coverage

When ONME observers monitor poll worker training, we are interested in evaluating the clarity and effectiveness of the training materials and methods. We are also interested in understanding whether there are differences in what topics are addressed and how topics are covered, in addition to evaluating the training environment. We therefore ask our observers to report on (1) training environment and (2) training content coverage.

⁶ It is important to note that these measures do not equate compliance or non-compliance of locations with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As mentioned in the data collection overview section of this report, the findings mentioned here are a summary of observations made by election observers.

The below sections provide a detailed overview of the questions asked and what observers reported.

• Training Environment

Training that is conducted in a learning-conducive environment is crucial to ensure training content is retained and properly communicated. To understand what the in-person training environment might look and feel like, we asked observers to document how many people attended the training, how many trainers there were, whether they felt that the training was overcrowded and whether it was possible for all participants to easily see or hear what was being communicated.

There was a large variation of the number of participants. The number of trainees ranged from two people in Carlsbad in Eddy County to 90 people in Las Cruces in Doña Ana County, with an average of 18 trainees. The number of instructors ranged from two to five, with an average of five instructors per training. The trainee to instructor ratio varied similarly, with two trainings having a much larger number of instructors (10 and 15) with only two trainees each (meaning an instructor-trainee ratio of 10:2 and 15:2 or 5 instructor per trainee and 7.5 trainers per trainee) on the lower end and 10 trainees per instructor ratio on the higher end (where there were 90 trainees in attendance, and 9 instructors available to provide training).

Because numbers themselves are unable to indicate whether the size of the training or trainee-to-trainer ratio affected overcrowding or the ability to clearly see and hear the training, we also asked ONME observers these follow up questions. While one ONME observer felt that training was overcrowded, the remainder noted that they were able to see and hear the training clearly.

Additionally, accommodations in trainings, including language, interpretation, and closed-captioning were limited and only available in Las Cruces in Doña Ana County and Santa Fe in Santa Fe County. We recommend that Poll Worker Trainings in the future make it clearer to those partaking and/or observing that these resources are available or to make them available.

• Training Content Coverage

We sought to know whether poll worker training throughout the state consistently covered topic areas vital to operate a polling location, ensure every eligible voter is able to cast their vote, and ensure each vote is counted and captured accurately.

To assess how and which training content was covered throughout different locations, ONME observers observing poll worker training were asked, first, whether they were able to observe the following topics being addressed in the training:

1. Opening and Operating the Polling Location
2. Equipment and Troubleshooting
3. Accessibility and Voter Accommodations
4. Language Access
5. Voter Eligibility and Check-In
6. Voter Protection and Electioneering
7. Ballot and Voting Procedures
8. Election Observers and Law Enforcement

9. Closing and Post-Election Procedures

Observers were asked follow-up questions for each section. In total, observers were asked 42 training content questions. Locations varied from having covered 17 items on the training content to all 42. On average, 28 content items from our checklist were observed across all the trainings where ONME observers were present. Of the poll worker trainings that were observed, the trainings in Otero County and Union County covered the fewest items that were asked on the checklists. Observers in McKinley County, San Juan County, and San Miguel County were able to observe all 42 items from the checklist.

County	Number of Items Observed
Otero	17
Union	17
Grant	18
Santa Fe	18
Taos	22
Doña Ana	28
Bernalillo	30
Eddy	34
McKinley	42
San Juan	42
San Miguel	42

To fully understand which aspects of training content were or were not covered (or were not observed by observers to have been addressed), and which areas facilitators of poll worker training may wish to revise and address more extensively, it is helpful to take a closer look into each content area. The section below includes more comprehensive information on whether items were covered in the trainings observed.

1. *Opening and Operating the Polling Location*

ONME observers were asked six questions centered on whether the training provided information on important aspects of opening and operating the polling location. Questions in this section included:

- The process of opening voting locations
- Materials needed at each location
- Hours of operation
- Expected hours of work of precinct board members and poll workers
- Implementing wait time reduction plans
- Managing voters who arrive after polls close

Every ONME observer was able to observe training addressing opening and operating the polling location. However, there was variation in terms of how many of the above listed items were actually covered in training.

As the table shows, overall, many items related to opening and operating polling places were covered in the locations we observed. However, some types of content were covered more extensively than others. For example, every training that was observed addressed which materials are needed at each location. The process of opening voting locations was covered mostly as well, except for in Alamogordo/Otero and Clayton/Union. The other items, including hours of operation, expected hours of work of precinct board members and poll workers, implementing wait time reduction plans, and managing voters who arrived after polls closed were covered at decreasing frequency across the observed locations. In almost half of the observed locations (Albuquerque/Bernalillo, Carlsbad/Eddy, Farmington/San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, and Las Vegas/San Miguel), all items were observed.

Opening/ Operating Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
The process of opening voting locations												9
Materials needed at each location												11
Hours of operation												7
Expected hours of work of precinct board members and poll workers												7
Implementing wait time reduction plans												6
Managing voters who arrive after polls close												5
Total content items observed by location	1	6	6	1	6	6	4	6	4	3	2	

The variability in content coverage was expressed by the ONME observer in Alamogordo/Otero, who noted that *“I think the training was not comprehensive and they did not cover many of the topics I was expecting them to cover.”* The Clayton/Union observer, who similarly reported not hearing information about many of the training topics addressed on their observer checklist, noted: *“There might have been little details left out since all of the poll workers have been doing this for a very long time. There were no new poll workers.”* Regardless of whether poll workers are highly experienced, we recommend that training locations ensure that content coverage is extensive to ensure that even the most experienced poll workers are re-familiarized with rules, regulations, and policies to minimize issues that may arise at polling locations.

2. Equipment and Trouble Shooting

Poll worker training should also cover information on how to manage equipment and materials. It should also show how to troubleshoot errors or issues when they arise, so that malfunctions can have minimal impact on voters.

To assess the extent of how poll workers are trained in this area, ONME observers were asked nine questions (Questions 13-22 in the checklist) addressing:

- Managing and resolving issues with signature rosters and electronic pollbooks
- Operating vote tabulators, troubleshooting errors, removing and storing removable media, and locking and securing the vote tabulators
- Verifying, storing, and transmitting machine-printed election returns
- Troubleshooting issues with voting equipment

As the table shows, most locations that were observed comprehensively covered equipment and troubleshooting-related items. Specifically, observers reported that training was most consistently provided on managing signature rosters/electronic pollbooks and operating electronic vote tabulators.

Equipment/Troubleshooting Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Managing signature rosters/ e-pollbooks												10
Resolving signature roster/ e-pollbook alerts/ issues												9
Operating electronic vote tabulators												10
Troubleshooting electronic vote tabulator errors												7
Removing and storing removable media from vote tabulators												8
Locking and securing vote tabulators after election												8
Verifying machine-printed election returns												9
Storing and transmitting machine-printed election returns												9
Troubleshooting issues with voting equipment												8
Total content items observed by location	4	9	9	7	9	9	8	9	0	6	8	

Importantly, the Santa Fe observer did not observe any content on equipment and troubleshooting. Per the observer, “[s]ome topics were not addressed in this training because only election judges are authorized to deal with them --- specifically accessibility and voter accommodations, troubleshooting and technical issues and closing and post election procedures. Election judges get a separate training.”

3. Accessibility and Voter Accommodations

A fair voting process guarantees that every eligible voter is able to vote. To make this happen, every voting location should ensure steps are taken to include proper equipment and train poll workers on how to assist voters who need accommodations.

To assess how much content was covered in this area, ONME observers were asked three questions in this topic area that include the following:

- Setting up accessible voting equipment
- Troubleshooting accessible voting equipment
- Assisting voters who request accessibility accommodations

As the table shows, accessibility items were covered more unevenly. Although most locations covered both setting up accessible voting equipment and content on how to assist voters who request accessibility accommodations, less than half of locations informed poll workers on how troubleshoot accessible voting equipment.

Accessibility Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Setting up accessible voting equipment												8
Troubleshooting accessible voting equipment												4
Assisting voters who request accessibility accommodations												8
Total content items observed by location	0	2	3	0	3	3	2	3	2	2	0	

Most observed poll worker trainings did not extensively discuss accessibility and voter accommodations during training. We therefore recommend, regardless of whether accommodations and accessibility related issues fall within the purview of poll workers, that training covers these areas. More knowledgeable and informed poll workers will be able to observe the process during voting to flag potential issues that may prevent every voter from being able to cast a vote and will be better prepared to support voters with the proper accommodations they are legally entitled to.

4. Language Access

Poll worker training should also include information on how to ensure language access for voters. We therefore asked observers if they were given information on the following during the trainings they attended:

- Assisting voters who requested language-related accessibility accommodations
- Providing ballots in required languages

Not all counties in New Mexico are required under federal law to provide language accommodations. Of the municipalities we observed, only Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan Counties are required to offer Native language accommodations in Navajo (Dine), Pueblo languages, and/or Ute. However, every county should offer language accommodations in Spanish per state guidelines.

As the table shows, poll workers were unevenly trained on how to provide language access for voters. This content area and voter protections and electioneering were the most unevenly covered topics in the poll worker trainings where ONME observers were present. Assisting voters who request language-related accessibility accommodations was covered in more than half of the observed trainings (Albuquerque/Bernalillo, Carlsbad/Eddy, Farmington/San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, Las Cruces/Doña Ana, and Las Vegas/San Miguel), but providing ballots in required languages was only covered at three locations – Farmington/San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, and Las Vegas/San Miguel.

Language Access Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Assisting voters who request language-related accessibility accommodations												6
Providing ballots in required languages												3
Total content items observed by location	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	

5. Voter Eligibility and Check-In

One of poll workers' responsibilities includes checking voters in and verifying their eligibility to vote at the polling location. New Mexico does not require previously registered voters to present a physical form of voter identification. Poll worker training provides an important opportunity to educate prospective poll workers and remind seasoned poll workers of the state's electoral rules.

To assess how much content was covered that centered on voter eligibility and check-in, ONME observers were asked whether the four following topics were addressed at the training:

- Who is eligible to vote
- What information/forms poll workers may request at check-in
- Same day voter registration
- Troubleshooting challenges with same day voter registration

Observers noted some variability of content coverage related to voter eligibility and check-in items in the trainings that were observed. Most locations shared information on handling same-day voter registration and information and forms that poll workers can request from prospective voters. Troubleshooting same-day voter registration was covered by more than half of the location. Finally, less than half of the locations covered voter eligibility. Although erroneously turning eligible voters away has not been a concern at the polling locations we have observed (except for one location), reiterating to poll workers who is and is not eligible (and importantly

sharing that prior felony convictions do not lead to voting ineligibility) is important and should be completed at every training to ensure that every voter who is eligible to vote is allowed to do so.

Voter Eligibility and Check-in Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Who is eligible to vote												5
Information/forms poll workers can request												7
Handling same-day voter registration												9
Troubleshooting same-day voter registration												6
Total content items observed by location	2	3	3	3	4	4	1	4	1	2	0	

6. Voter Protection and Electioneering

To assess how much voter protection and electioneering-related content was covered during the observed poll worker trainings, ONME observers were asked whether the training provided information on any of the following:

- Establishing a 100-foot limit around voting locations where campaigning (electioneering) cannot occur
- Enforcing rules against electioneering
- Enforcing rules against voter intimidation

From our observations, voter protection and electioneering was the topic area that was the least consistently covered across locations alongside language access. In fact, five of the eleven locations we observed (or 45%) did not cover any content on voter protection and electioneering (Albuquerque/Bernalillo, Carlsbad/Eddy, Clayton/Union, Las Cruces/Doña Ana, and Silver City/Grant). Establishing a 100-foot limit around voting locations and enforcing rules against electioneering was covered in only six out of the eleven locations. Enforcing rules against voter intimidation was only covered in four out of eleven locations.

Voter Protection and Electioneering Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Establishing a 100-foot limit around voting locations												6
Enforcing rules against electioneering												6
Enforcing rules against voter intimidation												4
Total content items observed by location	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	2	0	3	

Although both voter intimidation and electioneering incidents were isolated in nature during our observations in 2025, they still occurred. Informing poll workers on rules related to electioneering and voter intimidation create safeguards not only for voters but for poll workers themselves as well. We strongly recommend that all training cover these topics.

Additionally, one comment from an observer in Albuquerque also shows that while some trainings do not cover this content at all, poll worker trainings may even include information that is contrary to New Mexico state statute.⁷ Specifically, ONME observer explained that in their training, they were told that even “if someone is in violation [...] with [wearing] a tshirt or something, and they really just want to vote (as opposed to showing up

⁷ 2024 New Mexico Statutes, Chapter 1 - Elections, Article 20 - Offenses and Penalties, Section 1-20-16 - Electioneering too close to the polling place.

to start something), they should be allowed to vote and then leave.” However, state statute explicitly prohibits wearing political apparel to polling locations.

7. Ballot and Voting Procedures

In every election, there are a number of ballot types that poll workers encounter. This includes not only the different ballot styles (or combinations of races and candidates) available within their county, but also special ballots used for different purposes, including provisional ballots, spoiled ballots, and absentee ballots.

We asked ONME observers six questions on whether the training provided information on the following items related to ballot and voting procedures:

- Types of ballot styles
- Standard voting procedure
- When/how to issue provisional ballots
- How to process provisional ballots
- Spoiled ballot procedures
- Absentee ballot procedures

Overall, as the table shows, ballot and voting procedure content was consistently covered across locations. All locations had content on standard voting procedures and spoiled ballots procedures, and almost all locations shared content on absentee ballot procedures, types of ballot styles, and processing provisional ballots. When and how to issue provisional ballots was less evenly covered across the locations. The observed trainings in Bernalillo (Albuquerque), Eddy (Carlsbad), San Juan (Farmington) McKinley (Gallup), San Miguel (Las Vegas), Santa Fe (Santa Fe), and Taos (Taos) covered all six content items, while Otero (Alamogordo) and Doña Ana (Las Cruces) covered five of the six. The trainings in Union (Clayton) and Grant (Silver City) covered less content but both covered standard voting procedures and spoiled ballot procedures.

Ballot and Voting Procedures Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Types of Ballot styles												9
Standard voting procedure												11
When/how to issue provisional ballots												7
Processing provisional ballots												9
Spoiled ballots procedures												11
Absentee ballot procedures												10
Total content items observed by location	5	6	6	2	6	6	5	6	6	3	6	

Since Las Cruces (Doña Ana) and Santa Fe (Santa Fe) are the only counties with ranked choice voting, the observers for those two locations were asked whether training covered how poll workers should respond to questions about completing a ranked choice ballot and an explanation of the tabulation process for ranked-choice voting races. Both observers answered affirmatively to both questions.

8. Election Observers and Law Enforcement

ONME observers were also asked whether poll worker training included information on election observers, watchers, and law enforcement. In particular, we asked observers six questions on the following:

- Role of election observers
- Accommodating law enforcement observers

- Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for law enforcement
- Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for partisan election observers
- Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for nonpartisan election observers
- Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for election challengers

Content on election observers and law enforcement were not evenly covered across the locations observed. The observers who attended training in Albuquerque (Bernalillo), Silver City (Grant), and Taos (Taos), in particular noted that their training did not cover any content on observers. All other trainings covered content on the role of election observers and roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for partisan election observers. Accommodating law enforcement observers was the least covered item (only covered in Farmington/San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, and Las Vegas/San Miguel), and the roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for law enforcement was similarly not covered extensively (only in Carlsbad/Eddy, Farmington/San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, and Las Vegas/San Miguel).

Election Observers and Law Enforcement Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Role of election observers												8
Accommodating law enforcement observers												3
Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for law enforcement												4
Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for partisan election observers												8
Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for nonpartisan election observers												7
Roles, responsibilities, guidelines for election challengers												6
Total content items observed by location	3	0	4	3	6	6	4	6	4	0	0	

Especially in reference to observations ONME conducted in 2024, where an isolated few ONME observers were erroneously informed that they were not allowed to observe certain election processes, we hope that all future poll worker trainings ensure that information on election observers and law enforcement is covered.

9. Closing and Post-Election Procedures

Proper conduct during closing is critical to ensure election security, and increases trust and transparency in the electoral process. We therefore recommend that poll workers are trained on proper conduct at the respective polling locations where they will be working.

To assess how much information was provided in this area, we asked ONME observers whether poll workers received instruction on any of the following topics:

- Transmitting results or delivering voted ballots to the central counting places
- Completing an election certificate verifying that all duties were performed
- Preparing to transmit the ballot boxes

In total, observers responded to three questions, addressing closing and post-election procedures.

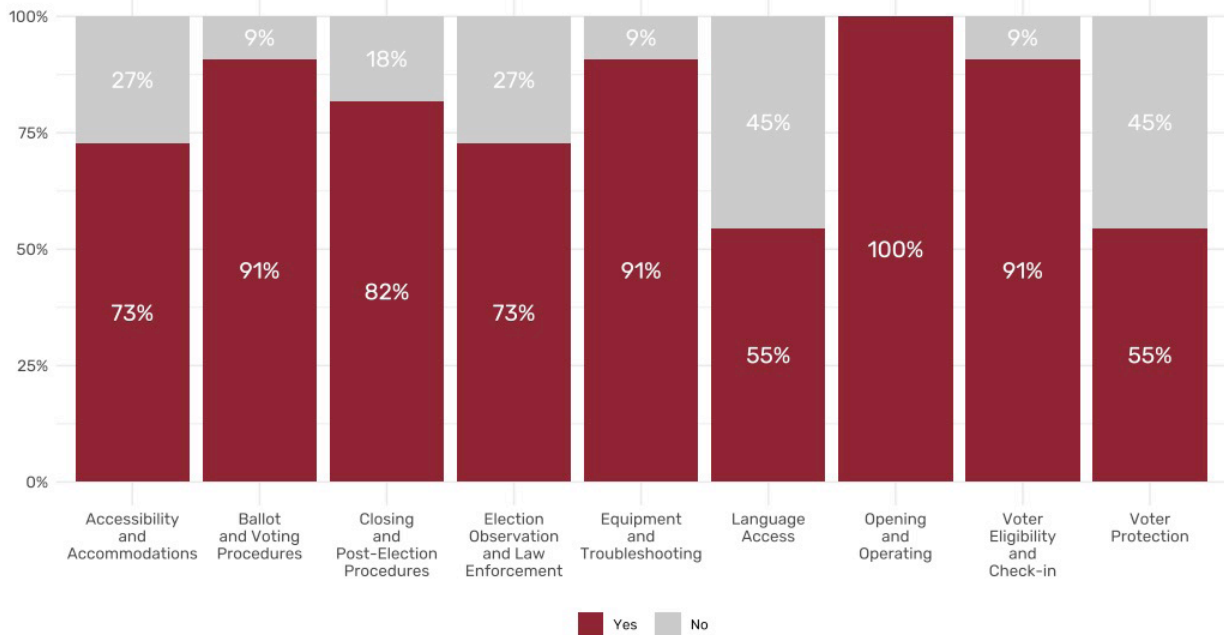
As the table shows, the observers of the trainings in Otero (Alamogordo) and Santa Fe (Santa Fe) did not hear any content on closing and post-election procedures. These three content items were covered in almost all other trainings, with preparing to transmit the ballot boxes being the one item that was slightly less consistently covered.

Closing and Post-Election Procedure Content Observed in Poll Worker Trainings	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos	Total locations where item was covered
Transmitting results												9
Completing an election certificate												9
Transmitting the ballot boxes												7
Total content items observed by location	0	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	0	2	3	

10. Summary and Issues with Training Content Coverage

We asked ONME observers for a large number of items that training may or may not have covered. The bar graph below provides a clearer overview of how many of the observed poll worker trainings covered any of the topic areas discussed above.

As the graph shows, and as was discussed above, a little over half of the locations (55%) provided at least some information on voter protections and electioneering showing that this area would benefit from more consistent coverage in poll worker trainings. Similarly, language access requirements were unevenly covered (55% of locations). A little over a quarter of the trainings we observed, 27% in each instance, did not cover accessibility accommodations or election observation and law enforcement. Closing and post-election procedures were discussed in 82% of trainings. Ballot and voting procedures, equipment and troubleshooting, and voter eligibility and check-in were discussed in almost all trainings, with 91% of observed locations indicating that trainees were able to receive information on at least some items in this topic area. Finally, opening and operating procedures were covered in all trainings.



Other Actors and Watchers/Observers

- **Presence of Other Watchers/Observers**

While observing poll worker training, none of the ONME observers observed any media, political party observers, nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, challengers, or other members of the public.

- **Conduct of Other Actors and Watchers/Observers**

No incidents of violence, harassment, or intimidation were reported during the training.

Logic and Accuracy Testing (Voting Machine Certification)

Highlights in Logic and Accuracy Testing

- Overall, the logic and accuracy testing (L&A) sites observed by ONME observers conducted testing in a calm and orderly environment.
- Six out of eleven observed sites were highly accessible. However, the remaining five sites ranged in accessibility. The McKinley County site had none of the accessibility features we asked about, while both Doña Ana and Otero only had an obstacle-free path from parking to entrance.
- All sites had staff available to answer questions during L&A testing. However, only one location had signage posted for members of the public looking to observe.
- A small number of political party observers and members of the media were present during L&A testing observed by ONME. The Otero County observer noted both challenges/objections and attempts at intimidation, while the Bernalillo County observer noted disruptions to the testing process.

During logic and accuracy (L&A) testing of election equipment, county clerks' offices in counties that have opted into the Local Elections Act verify that the vote counting equipment the county plans to use for an upcoming election is functioning as intended. Equipment must be reprogrammed by humans before every new election; logic and accuracy testing helps to ensure that any errors in the reprogramming process can be identified and corrected before the election takes place. Most errors detected during testing are human errors related to this reprogramming process. Testing validates that the voting system can correctly process voters' choices and is able to both accurately record and report the vote totals. Known results from a set of test ballots are compared to the voting system report of results obtained from a live test.

Testing may take a day to several weeks depending on the size of the county and the number of pieces of voting equipment that must be rigorously reviewed. Under New Mexico state law, this process may begin as early as 42 days before an election and, "[t]he process of preparing, inspecting, certifying and sealing electronic voting machines shall be open to observation by the public."⁸ This is an important transparency measure that helps to ensure public confidence in the testing and certification process, providing voters with an opportunity to see the equipment and pose questions to election officials about how it was selected, tested, certified, and will be used.

During testing, every ballot "style," or specific combination of contests that can appear on a voter's ballot in that county, is tested. Testing also ensures that votes for each and every ballot style are correctly counted by the tabulators or vote counting equipment, and that the tabulators are handling nonstandard votes (like overvotes or blank ballots) as intended.

Logic and Accuracy Testing occurs over a period of multiple days. Especially for observations made during this stage of the electoral process (in particular for sites that only had one ONME observer observing on one day), **it is important to note that the findings in this section are only an indication of what observers were able to see on the day they observed and do not necessarily reflect what was tested throughout the entirety of the process.**

The following section includes a data collection overview which describes when and how data was collected. This is followed by sections on the physical accessibility of the testing site, the testing environment, testing procedure, testing results, and the presence and conduct of other observers. Some sections include a comparison between our findings from the 2024 General Elections report to assess improvements and adjustments counties may have made.

Data Collection Overview

Observation of Logic and Accuracy Testing during the 2025 Municipal Elections took place between September 23–October 24, 2025. ONME observers were mobilized to observe in eleven counties and municipalities.

One observer each observed the process in Alamogordo/Otero, Carlsbad/Eddy, Clayton/Union, Farmington/

⁸ Oliver, M. (n.d.). Election Handbook of the State Of New Mexico 2023 Edition. Retrieved March 24, 2025, from https://api.realfile.rtsclients.com/PublicFiles/ee3072ab0d43456cb15a51f7d82c77a2/c5ceeb07-9546-4517-a7a1-be60a2094578/NM_Election_Handbook_SOS-2023.pdf, 1-11-5. Voting device; preparation; certification, pg. 158.

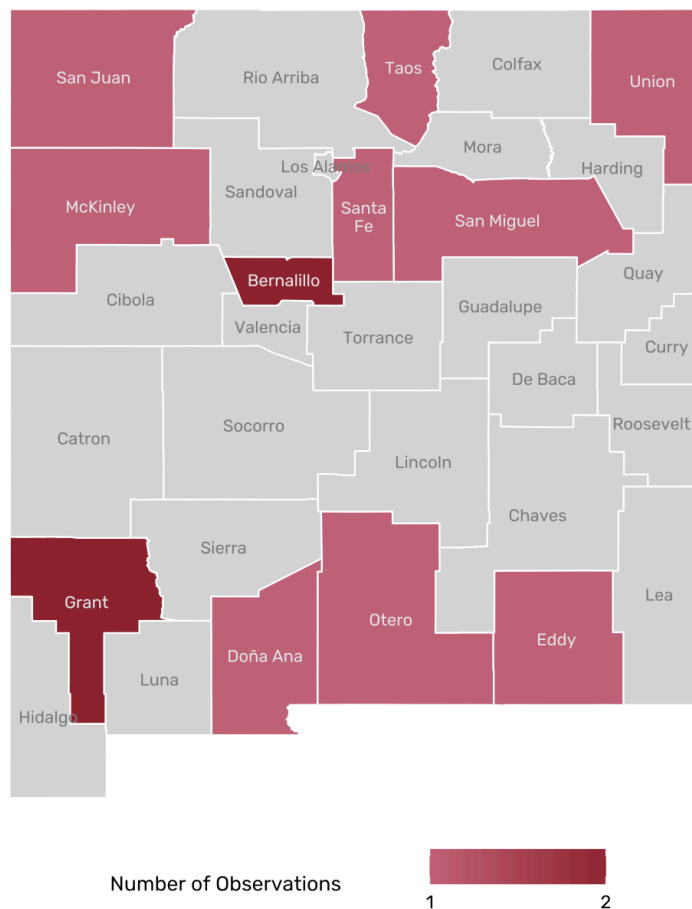
San Juan, Gallup/McKinley, Doña Ana/Las Cruces., Eddy/Carlsbad, McKinley/Gallup, Otero/Alamogordo, San Juan/Farmington, San Miguel/Las Vegas, Santa Fe/Santa Fe, and Taos/Taos. Two observers observed the process in Bernalillo/Albuquerque and Grant/Silver City. observed the process in Alamogordo (Otero), Carlsbad (Eddy), Clayton (Union), Farmington (San Juan), Gallup (McKinley), Doña Ana (Las Cruces) (Doña Ana), Eddy (Carlsbad), McKinley (Gallup), Otero (Alamogordo), San Juan (Farmington), San Miguel (Las Vegas), Santa Fe (Santa Fe), and Taos (Taos). Two observers observed in Bernalillo (Albuquerque) and Grant (Silver City) county.

Each ONME observer was given a checklist with a total of 29 questions, and covered the following areas:

- Accessibility of the Testing Venue
- Testing Environment
- Testing Procedures
- Testing Results
- Conduct of Other Actors
- Improved Understanding of Electoral Process⁹

The full list of questions asked on the observer checklist, as well as the response options, can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Counties in Which Logic & Accuracy Testing Locations Were Observed



⁹ Each observer, at each stage of the process they observed, was asked whether the observation experience resulted in a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All of those findings are summarized in the section on “Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative” and will not be further discussed in the other sections.

Since our findings ultimately report on how testing was performed at each testing site, each site is only counted once. In Grant and Bernalillo Counties, the process was observed twice, as we felt there may be an opportunity for deeper information. For those two extra observations, the observation data points were merged. This decision was made because Logic and Accuracy Testing occurs over a period of multiple days. A process that one ONME observer may have been able to see may have concluded on that day such that it was unobservable to the second ONME observer who observed the site on a different day. By merging these data points, we have a fuller picture of what may have been tested, especially in both Bernalillo and Grant Counties.

Testing Accessibility

Since this process is meant to be open to the general public, as noted above, an important component of Logic and Accuracy Testing is the accessibility of the site. To assess how accessible the facilities were where testing took place, ONME observers were asked a total of five questions on whether they were able to see the following features present at the sites they were observing:

- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired
- A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked

The ONME observer in the McKinley site stated that none of the accessibility features were present at the location where they observed voting machine certification. In Doña Ana and Otero, only one feature (specifically, an obstacle-free path from parking to entrance) was observed. Two features were present at the logic and accuracy testing site in Santa Fe (a wheelchair accessible main entrance that was also unlocked). The Taos observer noted the presence of four features. The only unobservable feature in Taos was that the wheelchair accessible main entrance was unlocked. Finally, the sites in Bernalillo, Eddy, Grant, San Juan, San Miguel, and Union Counties all had every accessible feature present.

While ONME believes these are important features to be present at testing sites, we would like to note that the absence of these are not a clear indication of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Easily accessible testing sites are crucial in ensuring that every eligible observer, observer, and other members of the public who would like to observe this process is able to do so. We recommend that testing sites that currently do not have accessible venues may wish to revisit where they hold testing moving forward, or modify existing locations or procedures to create improved accessibility for observers and other participants.

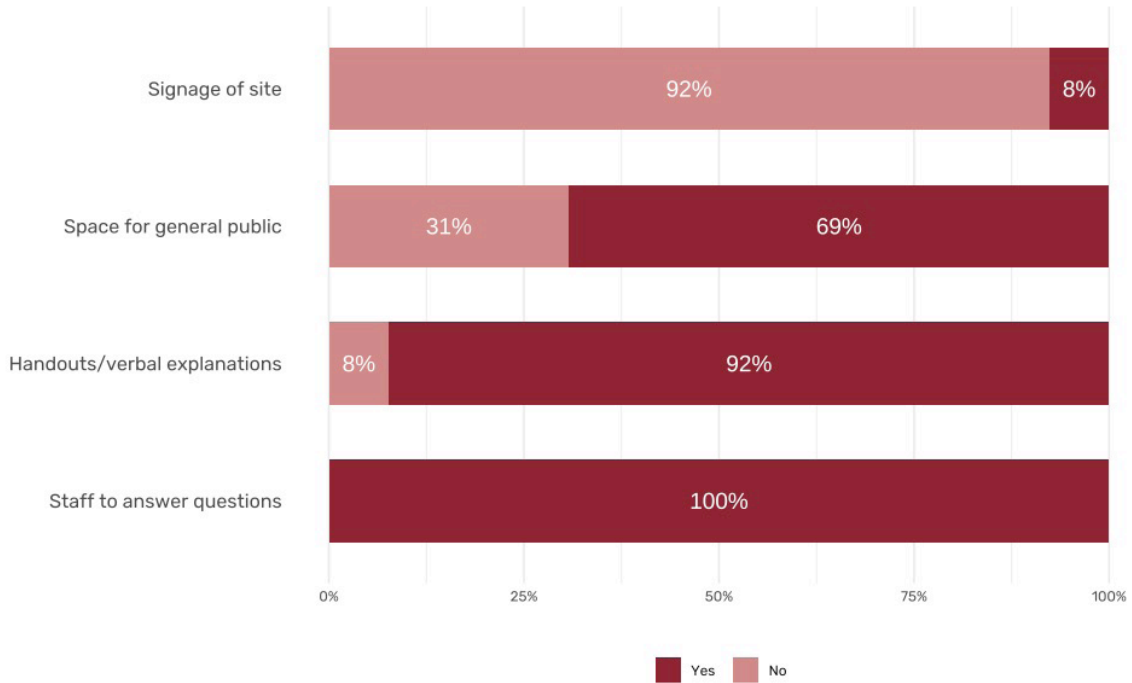
Testing Environment

In addition to holding logic and accuracy testing at an accessible location, it is also important to create a testing environment that is transparent and conducive to public observation and understanding. We assess the differences in testing environments using the following measures, which ONME observers were asked across four questions:

- Signage at the logic and accuracy testing site
- Availability of space for the general public and observers
- Availability of handouts or verbal explanations on the testing process
- Election staff availability to answer questions

Observers stationed at the testing sites in Eddy, McKinley, Otero, Taos, and Union Counties were able to observe two items. Observers in Bernalillo, Grant, San Juan, San Miguel, and Santa Fe counties were able to observe three of the four items. Finally, only the Doña Ana observer was able to observe every testing environment item that was asked.

Observable Features in L&A Testing Environment



There was also variation in which of the testing environment items were more consistently present. As the bar graph shows, except for the Doña Ana location, none of the other locations (92%) had signage indicating where the logic and accuracy testing site was. While 69% of observed locations had designated space for the general public, 31% did not. Almost all locations (92%) made either handouts or verbal explanations (or both) available to observers and observers. Only the Taos location provided neither handouts or verbal explanation. All locations had election staff available to answer questions.

Testing Procedure

It is important that equipment, pollbooks, and filled-in ballots are properly tested to ensure that each and every vote cast during the election is counted accurately. ONME observers responded to questions about observations they themselves made, as well as to questions they asked election officials on the logic and accuracy testing procedures. The questions addressed whether the following processes were tested or completed:

- Instrument testing of:
 - Central count vote tabulation machines
 - Tabulators for use in polling locations
 - Accessible voting systems/ ballot marking devices
 - Electronic pollbooks
- Printing zero reports
- Use of test decks
- Testing of ballots including:
 - Blank ballot / under-votes
 - Write-in candidates
 - Over-voted ballots
 - All ballot styles used in the county
 - Unusual ballots
- Out-stacking functionality

Observers typically observed one day of a multi-day testing process and reported what they saw. No observers watched the entire process, so the findings represent a snapshot. As the table shows, the items that ONME observers were able to see on the day(s) they were present ranged from six in Union County to all twelve in San Miguel County.

Testing Procedure Observed in L&A Testing		Bernalillo County	Doña Ana County	Eddy County	Grant County	McKinley County	Otero County	San Juan County	San Miguel County	Santa Fe County	Taos County	Union County	Total locations where item was covered
Equipment Tested	Central count vote tabulation machines												6
	Tabulators for use in polling locations												11
	Accessible voting systems												8
	Electronic pollbooks												2
Testing Tools and Outputs	Zero reports												11
	Test deck												11
	Out-stacking functionality												7
Ballots Tested	Blank/under-voted ballots												11
	Write-in candidates												8
	Over-voted ballots												10
	All ballot styles in county												11
	Unusual ballots												8
Total content items observed by location		11	9	11	10	7	9	10	12	10	9	6	

• Equipment Tested

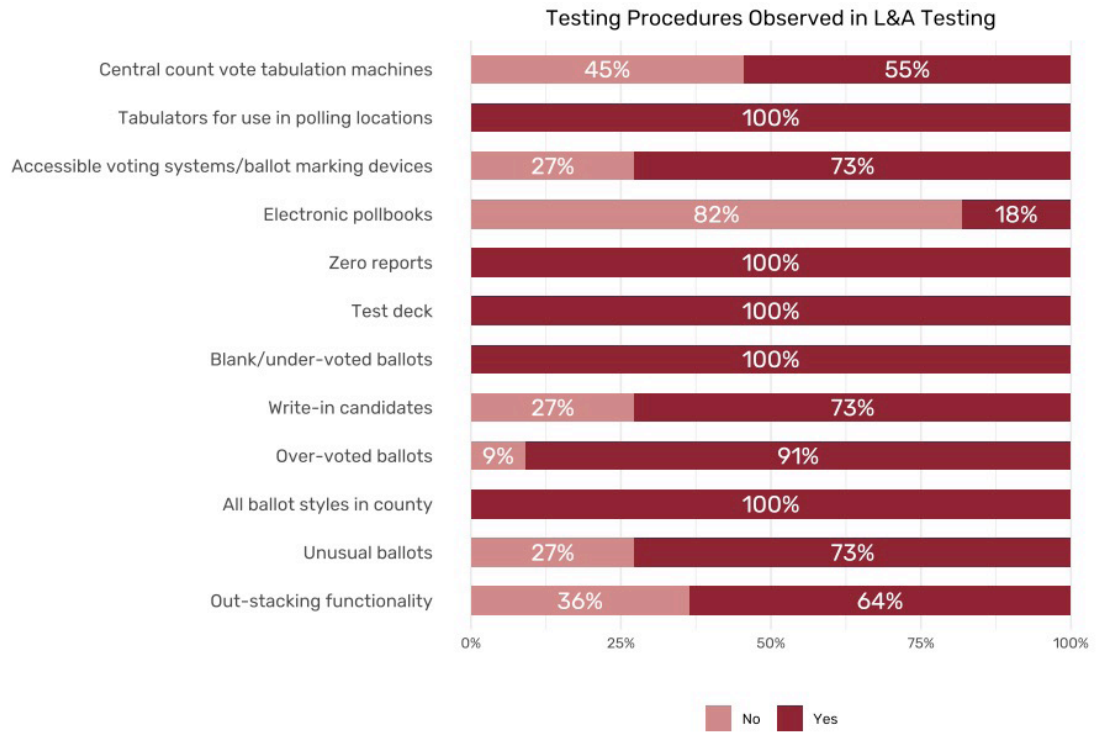
The bar graph below shows the locations where certain testing procedures were observable to ONME observers. In terms of equipment testing (the first four items on the bar graph), there was large variation between what was and was not observed. In 45% of locations, observers were able to see central count vote tabulation machines being tested. In 100% of locations, testing of tabulators for use in polling locations was observed. 73% of locations tested their accessible voting systems or ballot marking devices while observers were there. 18% of locations tested their electronic pollbooks.

• Testing Tools & Outputs

In terms of other testing procedures, in 100% of locations, observers were able to see when election officials printed zero reports for all tabulators prior to testing. Similarly, in 100% of locations, our observers saw election officials using a test deck to test tabulators. Finally, 64% of locations tested the out-stacking functionality of central count equipment when our observers were present.

• Ballots Tested

When it came to testing ballots, ONME observers were able to see testing of blank and/or under-voted ballots in all locations (100%). 73% of locations tested ballots with write-in candidates, while 91% of locations tested over-voted ballots during the period ONME observers were present. All locations tested all ballot styles used in the county, and 73% of locations tested unusual ballots when our observers were present. To reiterate, ONME observers not observing an aspect of testing in a location does not mean that process did not occur, it means that the process was not observed when the observer was present.



• **Ranked Choice Testing in Applicable Locations**

The municipalities of Las Cruces and Santa Fe use ranked choice voting, which allows voters to rank order their preference of candidates for mayor and city council. ONME observers in these municipalities were asked whether election officials tested ballots using ranked choice voting. Both observers responded affirmatively.

• **Quantity of Equipment Tested**

Observers were also asked how many of the following were tested during their observations:

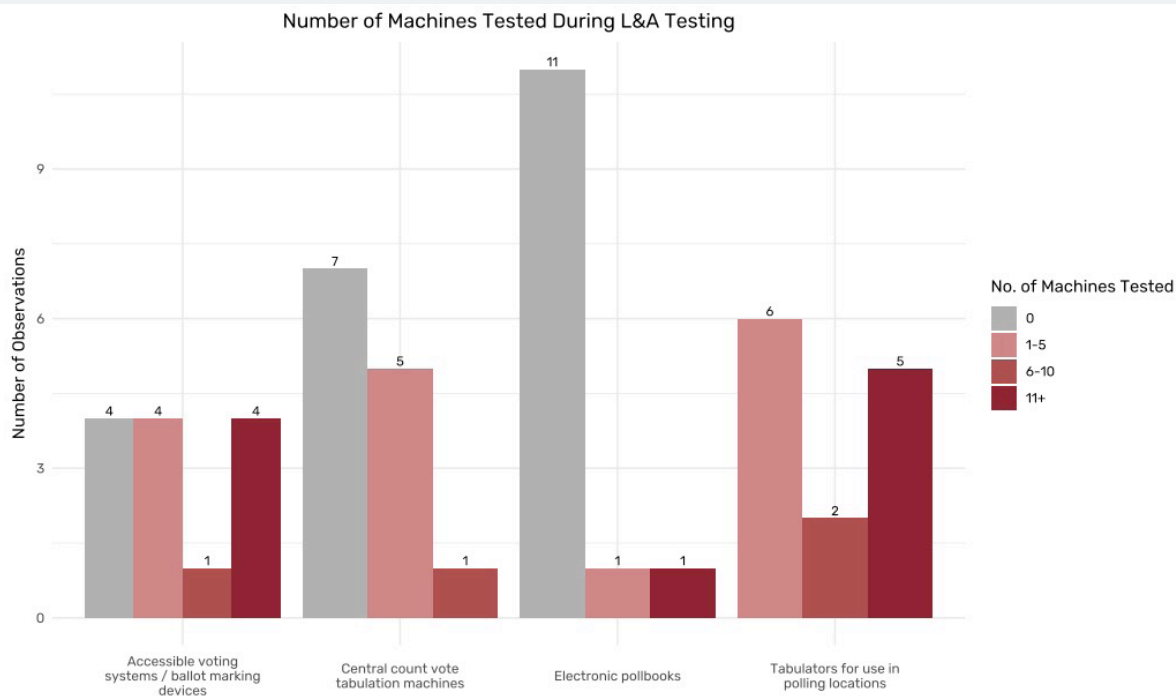
- Central count vote tabulation machines
- Tabulators for use in polling locations
- Accessible voting systems/ballot marking devices
- Electronic pollbooks

The graph below shows the number of machines tested, ranged from 0, between 1-5, 6-10, and 11 and over. ONME observers were unable to observe any testing of central count vote tabulation machines in seven locations. In five locations, between 1-5 central count vote tabulation machines were tested. One location in McKinley County tested between 6-10 (10 machines, to be exact).¹⁰

In terms of tabulators for use in polling locations, every ONME observer was able to see testing of at least one tabulator – six locations tested between 1-5, two locations tested between 6-10, and the remaining five locations observed tested more than 11¹¹.

ONME observers were able to see that locations tested accessible voting systems and ballot marking devices. Four ONME observers were unable to see any of these systems tested. Four were able to see between 1-5 tested, and one was able to see between 6-10 being tested. Another four were able to see 11 or more being tested.¹²

Finally, two observers, in particular in McKinley and San Miguel Counties, were able to watch more than 11 and between 1-5 electronic pollbooks being tested.



Testing Results

ONME observers were also asked what the testing results yielded. In particular, they were asked whether they were able to observe the following procedures followed by election officials:

- Generation of summary reports at the end of testing equipment
- (Not) encountering any unexpected errors and / or addressing errors that were encountered
- Equipment certification for election usage
- Clearing and resetting equipment after testing
- Sealing equipment with a metal seal after testing
- Recording the metal seal number
- Recording the reading on the protective counter

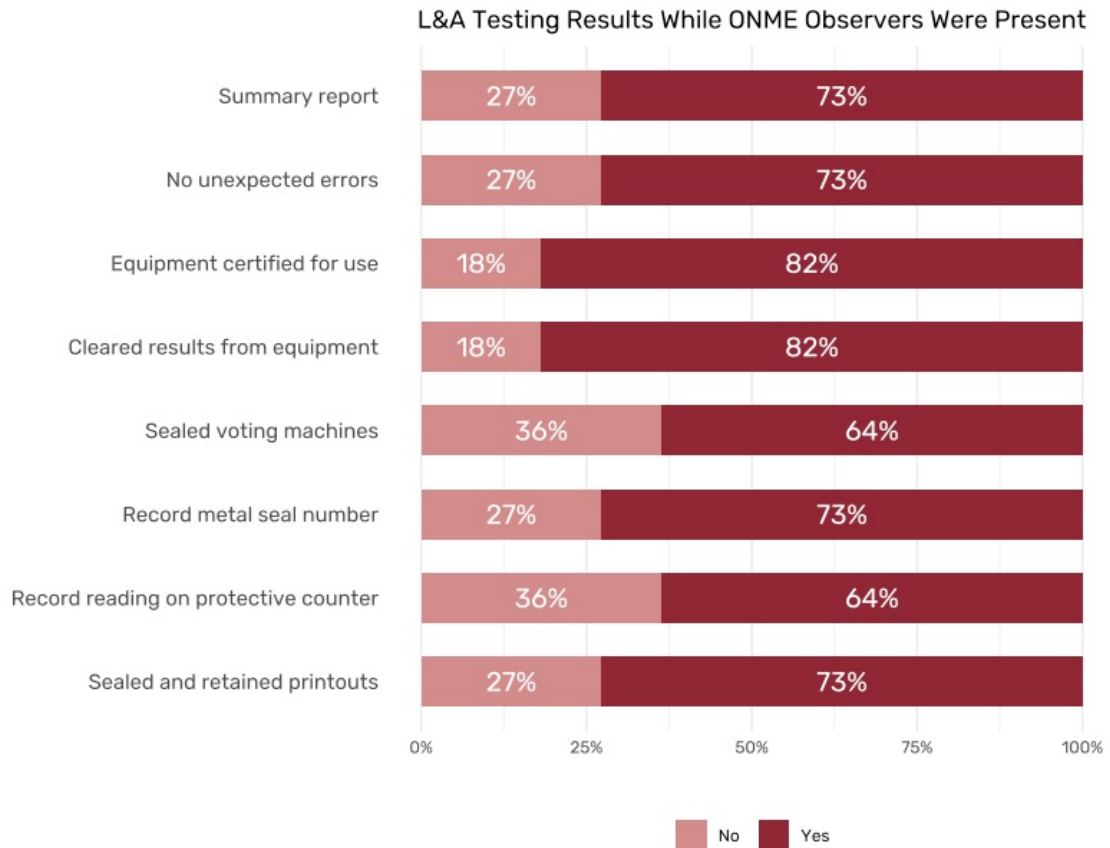
¹⁰ Note that unlike in the indices created, where the multiple day observations in Bernalillo and Grant were merged, they are counted separately here. This shows that depending on the day of observation, different procedures and tests are conducted – for example, one of the Bernalillo County observers saw no central count vote tabulation machines tested, while the other saw one tested. Both observers in Grant County saw none tested.

¹¹ The two observations in Bernalillo and Grant yielded different results for the number of tabulators for use in polling locations between the different days – in Bernalillo, one observer saw 23 machines tested while the other saw 33 machines tested. On the other hand, one of the observers in Grant saw only one machine tested, while the other saw nine.

¹² The ONME observers in Bernalillo were able to see 23 and 33 accessible voting systems/ballot marking devices being tested. One of the observers in Grant County was able to see none, while the other noted nine.

- Sealing and retaining the test printout(s)

There was some variation in the extent to which items on the checklist were observable. As the bar graph shows, in 73% of locations, ONME observers were able to observe that election officials generated a summary report at the end of testing tabulation equipment. In 73% of locations, no unexpected errors were observed. In 82% of locations, equipment was ultimately certified for use.



Additionally, observers were asked what election officials did during the testing results stage of logic and accuracy testing. In 82% of locations, observers saw election officials clear the testing results from all tabulation equipment and reset each counter to zero at the end of testing. In more than half of locations (64%), election officials immediately sealed all tested voting machines with a metal seal following testing with our observers present and able to witness the sealing process. In 73% of locations, our observers noted that election officials recorded the metal seal number on the certificate for each voting machine tested. In 64% of locations, election officials were observed to have recorded the reading on the protective counter when voting machines were sealed on the certificates. Finally, in 73% of locations, election officials sealed and retained any logic and accuracy test printout(s) during the period our observers were present.

The table below shows which testing results were observed in which county. The observations ranged from no observations in Doña Ana County, to all eight in Grant, San Miguel, and Taos Counties.

Testing Results Observed in L&A Testing	Bernalillo County	Doña Ana County	Eddy County	Grant County	McKinley County	Otero County	San Juan County	San Miguel County	Santa Fe County	Taos County	Union County	Total locations where item was covered
Summary report												8
No unexpected errors												8
Equipment certified for use												9
Cleared results from equipment												9
Sealed voting machines												7
Record metal seal number												8
Record reading on protective counter												7
Sealed and retained printouts												8
Total content items observed by location	5	0	7	8	4	6	7	8	4	8	7	

Unexpected errors can and should occur during this testing process. However, how locations handle unexpected errors matters to building and maintaining public trust and transparency.

In total, unexpected errors were observed in three counties – Bernalillo (by both observers), Doña Ana, and Eddy. The table below shows the error location, the error type (and a further description where necessary), and if the observer was able to see whether the error was resolved.

Error Location	Error Type	Error Resolved During ONME Observation?
Bernalillo (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two machines that improperly read test ballots 	Able to resolve after cleaning and rerunning test ballots
Bernalillo (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One ATI paddle proved to be defective and was discarded. One tabulator rejected 75% of ballots & was taken out of the testing after 300 ballots (using a deck of 477). One tabulator completed the test but then showed a higher vote count. The reason seemed to be because the machine was smearing ink on the ballot. The Dominion representative was called in to service the two machines so they could be tested again tomorrow. 	Mixed
Doña Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One tabulator mismarking an accessible ballot Another tabulator jamming ballots that were being fed 	Mixed – accessible ballot issue was resolved after replacing printer cartridge; tabulator jam was not resolved and tabulator was set aside
Eddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On two machines, the print out order of the candidates was different but the votes were accurate. 	No – the county clerk made a note that they were going to go back to that machine and rearrange the order

Other Observers and Their Conduct

• Presence of Other Watchers/Observers

ONME observers were asked whether others were present on the day they observed testing. Observers were asked whether they were able to see members of the Democratic, Libertarian, Republican, and/or minor parties, journalists or members of the media, and other members of the public.

The presence of others was relatively limited during testing. Two Democratic Party observers were seen in Otero County, while one was observed in San Juan County. Two Republican Party observers were seen by one Bernalillo County observer, and one Republican Party member was observed by the Otero County observer. No Libertarian Party or minor party observers were seen by any ONME observers. The Eddy and Otero County observers each observed one member of the media.

Finally, members of the public were observed in the following counties: One each in Bernalillo and Grant, two in San Juan, and three in McKinley County. One observer in Bernalillo County also identified a candidate for a Soil and Water Conservation District election observing the process.

• Conduct of Other Observers

ONME observers were also asked whether they were able to observe (1) challenges or objections during testing, (2) attempts to intimidate or otherwise influence testing, (3) violence or intimidation during testing, and (4) disruptions. Overall, issues were isolated, with the observer in Otero County observing both challenges or objections and attempts to intimidate or otherwise influence the process, and one of the Bernalillo observers observing disruptions.

Specifically, the Otero observer noted issues with a Republican Party observer, who was concerned that election officials could be tampering with the machines. Further, this observer noted that this party member's concern led to their *"continued harass[ment of] the workers. [They] kept making passive aggressive comments that seemed to be a targeted attack towards the Election Officials and workers."*

No ONME observer noted any incidents of violence or intimidation.

Voting Process

Early In-Person Voting

Highlights of Early In-Person Voting in Municipalities

- All observed locations opened on time: a testament to the consistency, hard work and professionalism of election workers across New Mexico.
- Almost all observed locations were highly accessible.
- Accessible voting systems were available at all observed locations.
- Cases of equipment malfunctions were resolved quickly, allowing voting to continue without significant interruptions.
- Although every location observed had both English and Spanish language materials, none of the locations mandated by the Voting Rights Act to have materials in Navajo (Diné), Pueblo languages, or Ute (which, from our observations, include Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan Counties) had any of the languages they are required to have available. This absence directly violates the VRA's language assistance provisions.
- All voters with disabilities who requested an assistant of their choosing were allowed to have an assistant accompany them to vote.
- Observers saw strong adherence to documentation and reconciliation practices across observed locations.

Early In-Person Voting gives many New Mexicans a way to cast their ballots before Election Day. It can reduce lines on Election Day, expand access for voters with work or caregiving responsibilities, and offer more options for people with limited transportation, health concerns, or unpredictable schedules. Early voting sites also allow voters to receive assistance with basic questions about their registration or ballot in a calm, less time-pressured environment.

Early in-person voting during the 2025 municipal elections took place from October 7th through and including November 1st, 2025. ONME observers observed early in-person Voting from October 18th to November 1st, 2025 across eleven municipalities and counties. This section summarizes what ONME observers observed during this period, focusing on how voters were served, how procedures were implemented, and whether early voting was administered securely and transparently.

Data Collection Overview

In total, 32 ONME observers observed 38 polling locations¹³ across the eleven municipalities. The map and table below show how many polling locations were observed during early in-person voting. One site in Farmington (San Juan County) was observed twice. For the purposes of analysis, since we are interested in differences between polling locations, we will use the most recent observation for each site. We will include further discussion of the findings, which are distinct for this particular twice-observed polling place.

¹³ This table counts one instance only of the Farmington polling place that was observed twice.

Municipality	County	Number of Polling Locations
Alamogordo	Otero	2
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	17
Carlsbad	Eddy	1
Clayton	Union	1
Farmington	San Juan	1*
Gallup	McKinley	2
Las Cruces	Doña Ana	4
Las Vegas	San Miguel	1
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	6
Silver City	Grant	1
Taos	Taos	2

As with other observed electoral processes, ONME observers were asked to fill out a checklist of what they observed. In total, the checklist for early in-person voting included 103 questions, with some questions having follow-up and/or clarifying questions. The areas of interest in these checklists included the following:

- Arrival and Opening:
 - Accessibility of the Voting Place
 - Election Officials Present
 - Opening the Polls
- Setup and Environment:
 - Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening
 - Posted Voting Information and Instructions
- Voting Process:
 - Voter Check-in
 - Same-Day Registration
 - Resolving Voter Issues
 - Electronic Vote Tabulators
 - Absentee Ballots
 - Language Assistance
 - Assistance for Voters with Disabilities
 - Challenges to Voter Eligibility
 - Peace Officers and Law Enforcement
 - Staffing, Supplies, and Wait Times
- Close of Polls
- Securing the Polls:
 - Closing Procedures and Ballot Handling
 - Observer Objections at Closing
- Other Observers/Watchers during Opening, Set Up, Voting, and Closing
- Improved Understanding of Electoral Process¹⁴

The full checklist and response options given to observers can be found in Appendix 3.

Arrival and Opening

• Accessibility of the Voting Place

Every voting location should be accessible to voters with disabilities. To assess how accessible voting places are, ONME observers were asked whether they were able to see any of the following accessibility features

¹⁴ Each observer, at each stage of the process they observed, was asked whether the observation experience resulted in a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All of those findings are summarized in the section on “Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative” and will not be further discussed in the other sections.

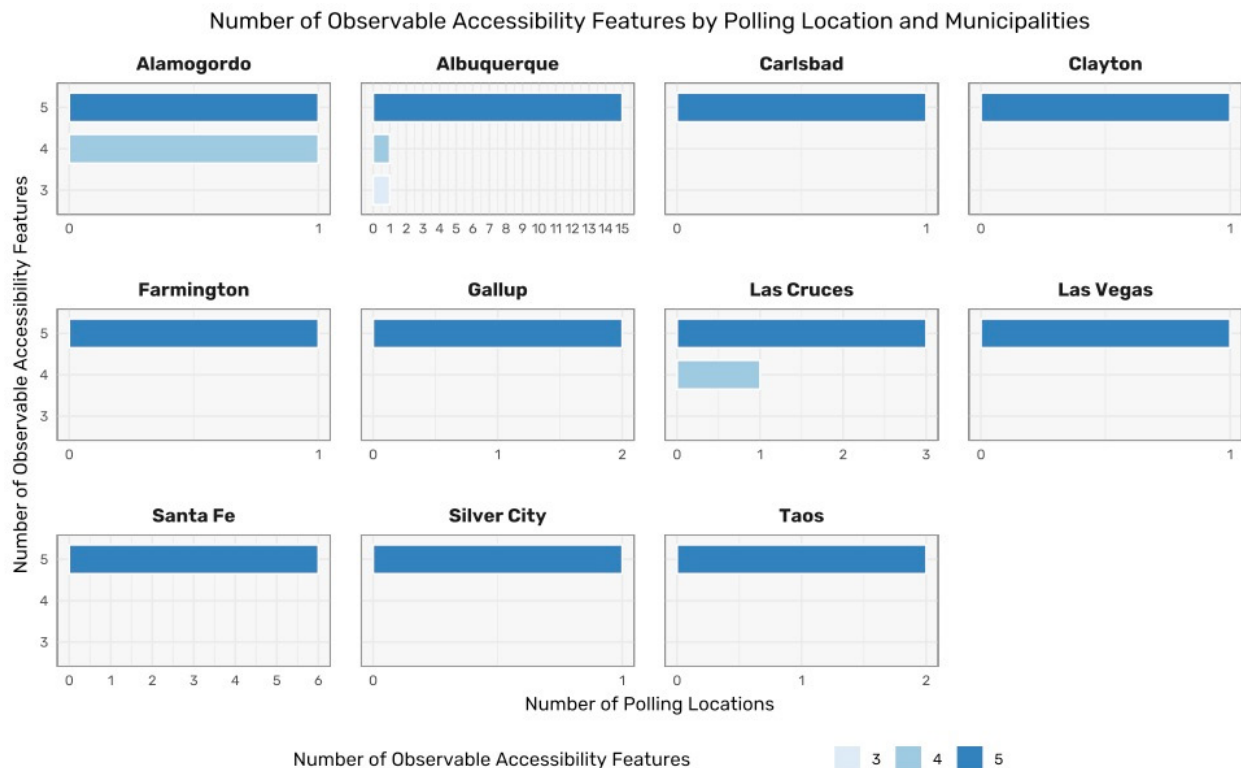
when they arrived at the voting location:

- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired
- A clearly marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked

Overall, accessibility features were present at almost all voting locations observed. In fact, in 89% of locations observed, all five items were observable, meaning that these locations had accessible parking spots, obstacle-free paths, and wheelchair-accessible entrances that were not only main entrances but also unlocked.

Four polling locations in three municipalities (Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Alamogordo) had voting locations where not all accessible features were present or observable to the observers. In Albuquerque, only one location had three features present, with the missing items being accessible parking spots and an obstacle-free path from the parking lot to the entrance. The reason for this assessment by the ONME observer may have been that this specific voting location was in a building in the middle of a college campus, requiring wheelchair users and visually impaired individuals to travel farther from a parking location than at other voting locations.

Another location in Alamogordo, one in Albuquerque, and one in Las Cruces also had four features visible. The second Albuquerque location, which had four accessibility features, lacked an obstacle-free path from the parking lot to the entrance. Both the Las Cruces and Alamogordo locations, with the four visible features, lacked a clearly marked wheelchair-accessible entrance.



• Election Official Arrival and Opening the Polls

ONME observers were asked whether polls officially opened at their scheduled time, whether there was a line of voters waiting before the polling place opened, and whether election officials were present and how they conducted themselves. They were also asked, before the follow-up questions, whether they were able or unable to observe the opening of the poll location, and if they were unable to, if it was because they were not allowed.

1. Opening the Polls

In total, 92% of ONME observers were able to observe the opening of the polls.¹⁵ The observer in Farmington was not allowed to observe the opening at one location. Two other observers, one in Santa Fe and one in Taos, were unable to observe for other reasons. The following information is based on 92% of observations where we were able to receive information about the opening of polls.

All locations observed opened on time at 7:00 am.

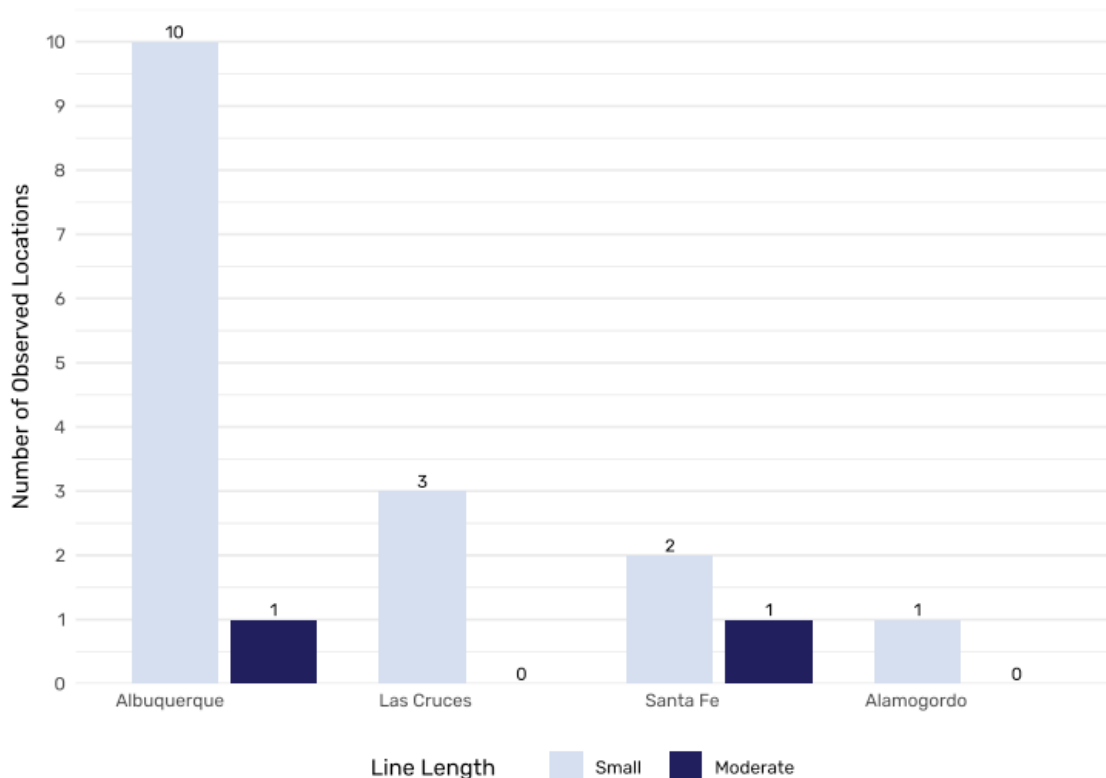
2. Voter Lines at Opening

ONME observers were asked whether there were any lines of voters at the polling place before it opened. Most municipalities' polling locations observed had no lines – specifically, none were observed in Carlsbad, Clayton, Farmington, Gallup, Las Vegas, Silver City, and Taos.

Lines were observed in 11 out of 17 Albuquerque locations, in three out of four Las Cruces locations, and in three out of five Santa Fe locations.

As a follow-up, those who observed lines at opening were also asked whether these lines were small (1-10 people), moderate (11-50 people), long (50-99 people), or enormous (100+ people). As the bar graph shows, lines were small at almost all locations that had lines. Ten locations in Albuquerque, three locations in Las Cruces, two in Santa Fe, and one in Alamogordo had small lines, meaning between 1-10 people were waiting before opening. One location in each of Albuquerque and Santa Fe counties was described as having moderate-length lines, meaning 11-50 people were waiting at opening.

Number of Observed Locations with Lines and Line Length at the Opening of Polls - Early In-Person Voting



The light blue bar graph shows the number of locations that had a small (1-10 people) line. The dark blue shows locations with moderate (11-50 people) lines at the time of opening.

To assess whether a line, and notably a lengthy one, may cause issues, ONME observers were also asked whether they observed anything noteworthy about the lines. All observers who responded noted either nothing unusual or that the lines moved quickly and lasted only briefly once polling places opened.

¹⁵ This calculation was made counting 39 locations (i.e., counting the same Farmington that was observed twice as individual locations), only because at one time when the observer observed, they were not allowed to observe, and during the second time they observed, they were.

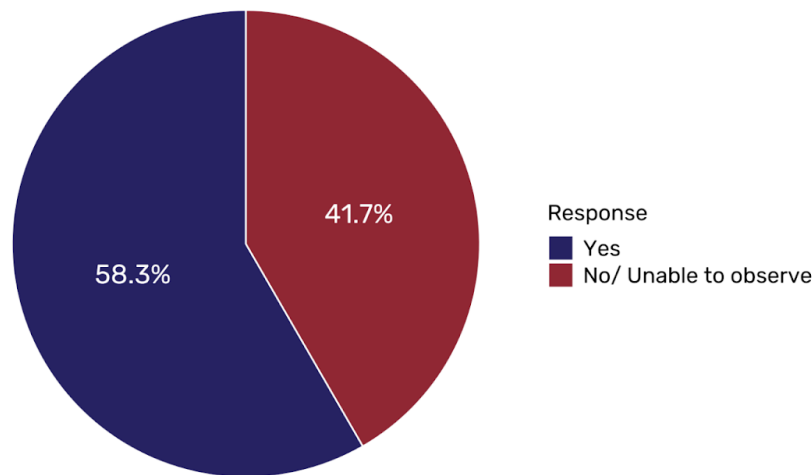
3. Election Official Presence and Verification Processes

There was a large variation in the number of election officials observed by ONME observers. Overall, observers observed between 1–19 election officials present at the time of opening. One location each in Taos and Clayton observed only one election official. We recommend that every location, regardless of size, have at least two election officials working at all times, to ensure that elections can continue unimpeded should an issue arise and that no ballot is handled without oversight.

ONME observers were also asked whether they observed precinct board members (another term for poll workers) checking the total number of lifetime votes displayed on each voting machine's counter and confirming that it matched the numbers on the machine's certificates. This security measure helps to ensure that voting equipment has not been tampered with since the time that it was tested, certified and sealed.

As the pie graph shows, ONME observers in more than half of all observed polling locations (58.3%) were able to verify that precinct board members checked machine counters and matched them with the certificate. In the remaining 41.7% of locations, observers were either unable to see this process or noted that poll workers did not complete this step. Although this was not observed / not done in almost half of all observed locations, it is important to note that this process is difficult to observe. We recommend that every location makes sure that precinct board members verbally announce that they are checking machine counters to make this process more transparent.

Were Observers Able to Observe Poll Workers Check Machine Counters and Match Them With the Certificate? Early In-Person Voting



Set Up and Environment

• Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening

Voting locations should be set up to ensure that, regardless of what time voters arrive within opening hours, they are able to easily understand the voting process and easily and safely cast their votes.

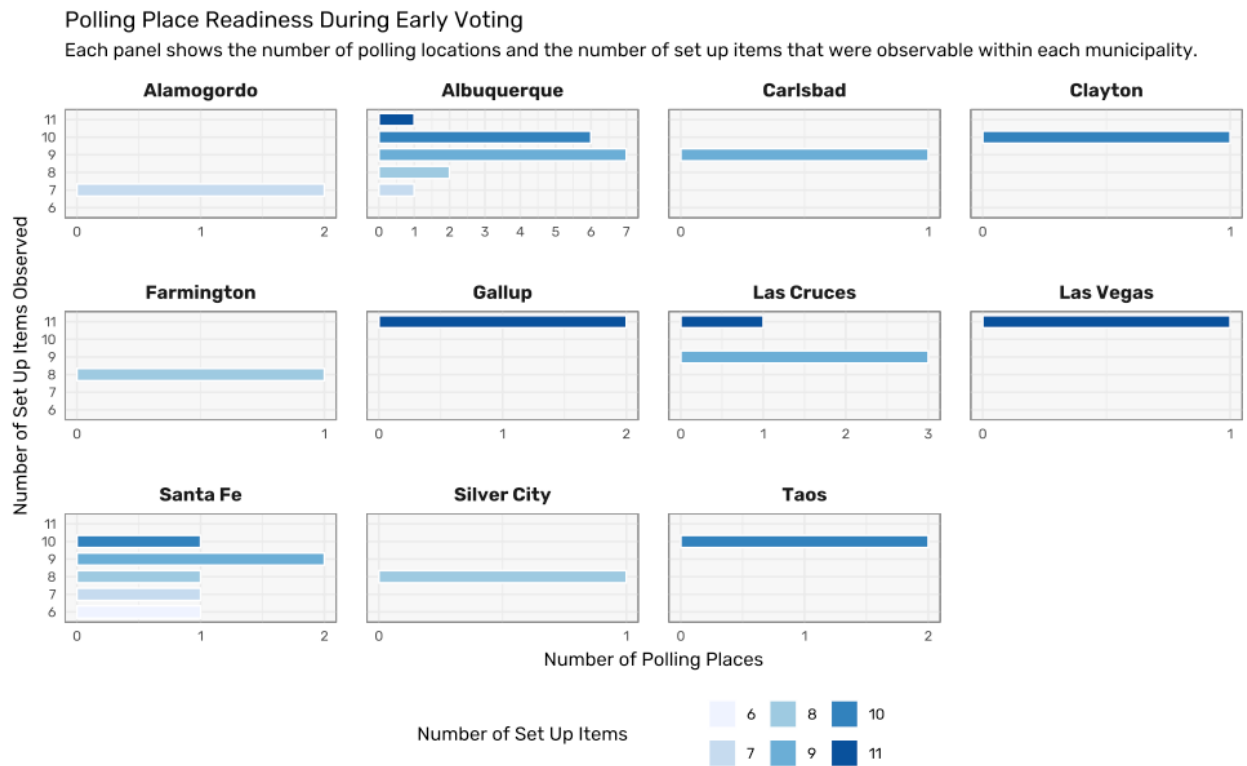
To assess how ready each observed voting location was, ONME observers were asked about the following topics through eleven questions on the checklist:

- Voting stations were set up
- Privacy ensured in the voting station set up
- Instructions on each voting station
- Roster or electronic check-in system set up at opening
- Regular ballots or way to print ballots at opening

- Provisional ballots or way to print ballots at opening
- Accessible voting system:
 - At least one available
 - Instructions
 - Set up
 - Turned on
 - Test ballots run through to confirm it is working

1. Overall Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening

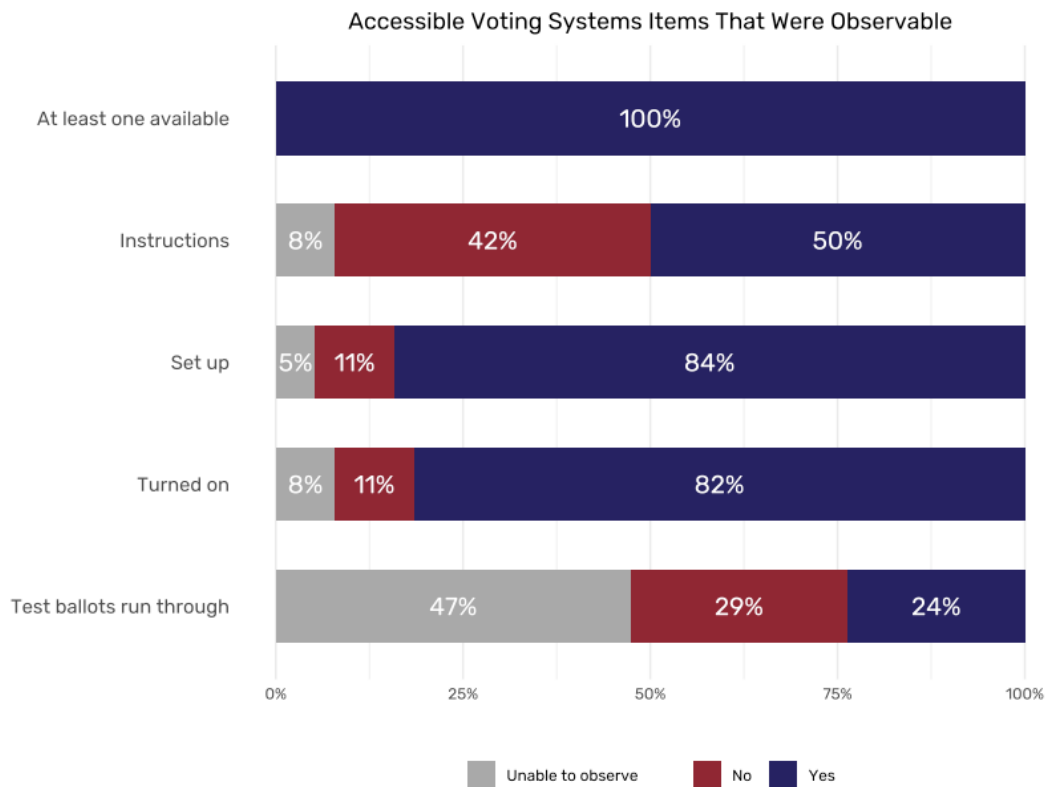
The graph shows the setup and opening readiness features that were observed for the different polling locations in each municipality. The x-axes, which are the horizontal lines, show the number of polling places observed, while the y-axes, which are the vertical numbers, show the number of features observed. Six features were observable in one location in Santa Fe. One location each in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe were observed to have seven of the eleven items ready and available at setup. Observers in two locations in Albuquerque, one in Silver City, one in Farmington, and one in Santa Fe were able to see eight features during set up. In seven locations in Albuquerque, three in Las Cruces, one in Carlsbad, and two in Santa Fe, nine features were observable. Six locations in Albuquerque, and one location in Santa Fe, two locations in Taos, and one location in Clayton had almost all items (ten) observable to observers. Finally, ONME observers reported that one location in Albuquerque, one in Las Cruces, one in Gallup, and one in Las Vegas had all items that observers were asked about ready, set up, and tested.



2. Accessible Voting Systems During Setup

Observers were asked to determine whether accessible voting systems were set up and turned on, whether instructions were posted about their use, and whether election officials tested them during opening and setup. Given most accessible voting systems are built into tabulators being actively employed in counting ballots, ONME observers were frequently unable to observe these systems without directly asking a busy election official, or seeing a voter make use of the system. To ensure that all voters can vote on equipment designed with accessible features, ONME recommends that instructions for their use be posted clearly from the time the polls open such that voters can see them upon entering the polling place, and that accessible equipment be made readily available and sufficiently tested.

Overall, at least one accessible voting system was observed to be available in every polling location observed. However, slightly fewer locations actually had these systems set up (84%) or turned on (82%). Only half of the observers were able to see instructions on how to use accessible voting systems.



Furthermore, when it came to whether election officials tested, i.e., ran several test ballots through the accessible voting systems to confirm whether they were working, only 24% of observers were able to observe this in the locations where they observed.

• Voting Information and Instructions

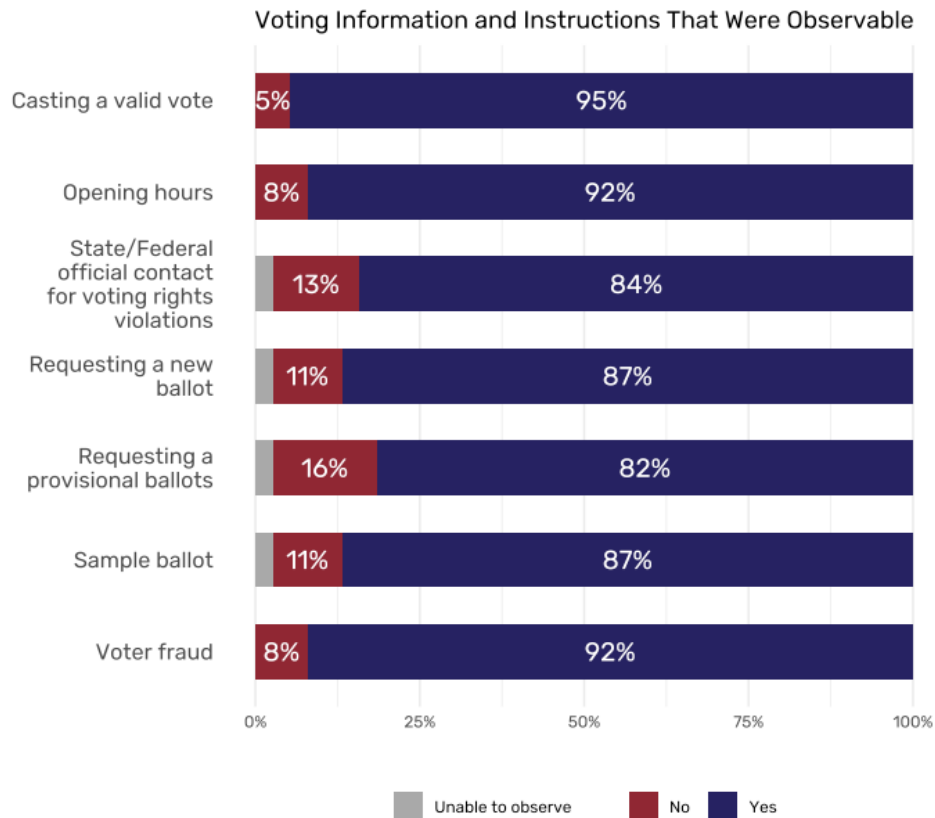
Posting voter information and instructions is valuable to aid voters, in particular first-time voters, through the voting process. To understand how voting information and instructions were made available in polling places across the state, we asked ONME observers if they were able to look for the following posted information:

- Instructions on casting a valid vote
- Hours of Operation: The times and days one can go to a voting place (polling location) to cast a ballot
- Voters' rights and relevant laws: Guidance on one's entitlements and the legal framework governing elections, which includes:
 - Procedures for casting and requesting provisional ballots
 - Regulations prohibiting voter fraud or misrepresentation

- Ballot information, detailing how one votes. This encompasses:
 - Instructions on how to request a new ballot
 - Sample ballots demonstrating how to fill out one's own ballot so it is counted

ONME observers were asked seven questions about the types of information posted.

Overall, most locations that were observed had voting information and instructions posted in their locations. However, as the graph shows, there is slight variation. Specifically, information on requesting or casting provisional ballots and contact information for state and/or federal officials for reporting voting rights violations were both less often reported at the observed voting locations (not seen in 16% and 13% of locations, respectively). At 11% of locations observed, there were no posted Instructions on how to request a new ballot. Almost all locations (95%) posted instructions on casting a valid vote.



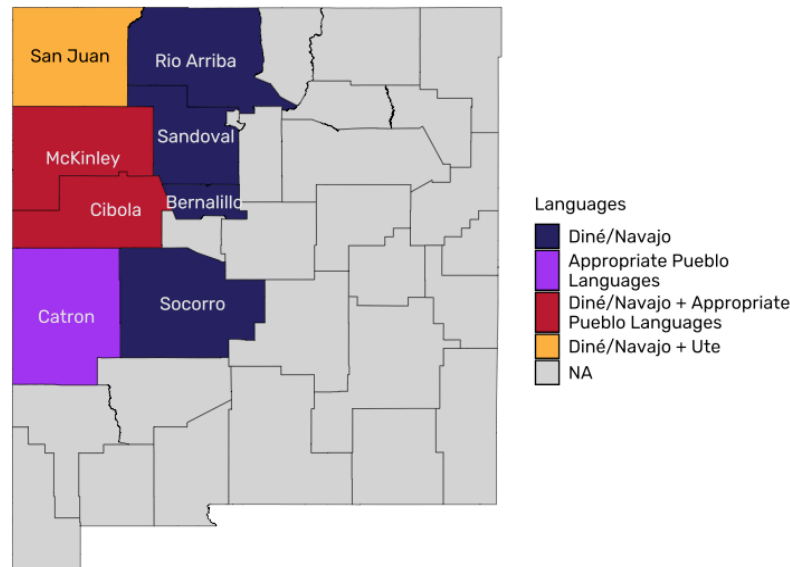
It is important to note that just because information was not posted does not mean it was not available to voters. Some locations may have information available for voters when they ask for it. However, to make valuable information easier to access and distribute, we recommend that all locations consistently post all the information required by law for voters where they can easily find and read it. In cases where there may be too many sample ballots to post, we recommend that voting locations post QR codes where voters can access online versions of instructions and information.

• Language Access

In addition to questions about which types of information observers identified at their polling locations, they were also asked whether information was posted in languages other than English.

While every county in the state is required to provide information to voters in Spanish and English, additional counties are required to provide information in Native languages (see below map). Relevant for this year's observation, elections in Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan Counties are required to provide information in Navajo (Diné). Additionally, McKinley and San Juan counties are required to provide information in the appropriate Pueblo languages or Ute, respectively. It is important to note that offering information in these languages is required by federal law and/or state election guidelines.

Counties Where Native Languages are Required by Federal Law/State Election Guidelines



Every location observed had information available in both Spanish and English. However, none of the locations provided information in other languages. We recommend that every polling location adhere to federal and state laws by offering language services and materials in the languages they are required to provide to ensure that voters the laws were created to support can use them.

Voting Process

• Voter Check-in

The voter check-in procedure is critical as it serves as the essential gatekeeping mechanism to ensure the integrity of the election. It verifies the identity and eligibility of each person presenting to vote, confirming they are registered in the correct precinct and preventing duplicate voting.

We asked ONME observers whether they were able to observe the following:

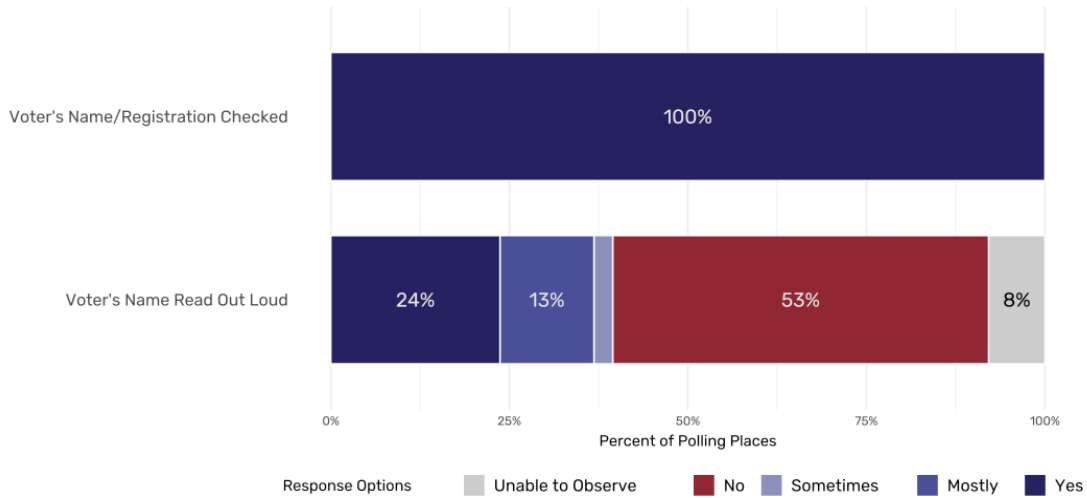
- Voters' names and registration were checked on the electronic pollbook/voter list
- Voters' names were read out loud
- New voters were asked for documents, consistent with state law, to complete voter registration
- Registered voters were asked to identify themselves verbally in order to receive a ballot

As the graph shows, observers at all observed locations reported that election officials checked every voter's name and registration on the voter list or electronic pollbook. Observers did not see election officials read voters' names out loud in over half of the locations observed (53%). 24% of observers verified it each time, 13% saw it mostly, and 3% noted they saw it sometimes. 8% of observers reported being unable to observe whether

voters' names were read out loud at check-in. A member of the precinct board in each polling location is legally required to read the voter's name aloud. This crucial step serves a dual purpose: it acts as a safeguard against officials inappropriately requesting ID from registered voters and ensures that partisan observers and/or election officials have the opportunity to challenge a voter's eligibility to vote, should they have an objection.

Observers experienced challenges with observing whether election officials were appropriately requesting identification for first-time voters. We recommend that every polling location and poll worker training ensure that election workers are appropriately trained and knowledgeable about when to ask for voter identification, and when not to.

Percent of Check-in Items Observed/Unobserved - Early In-Person Voting



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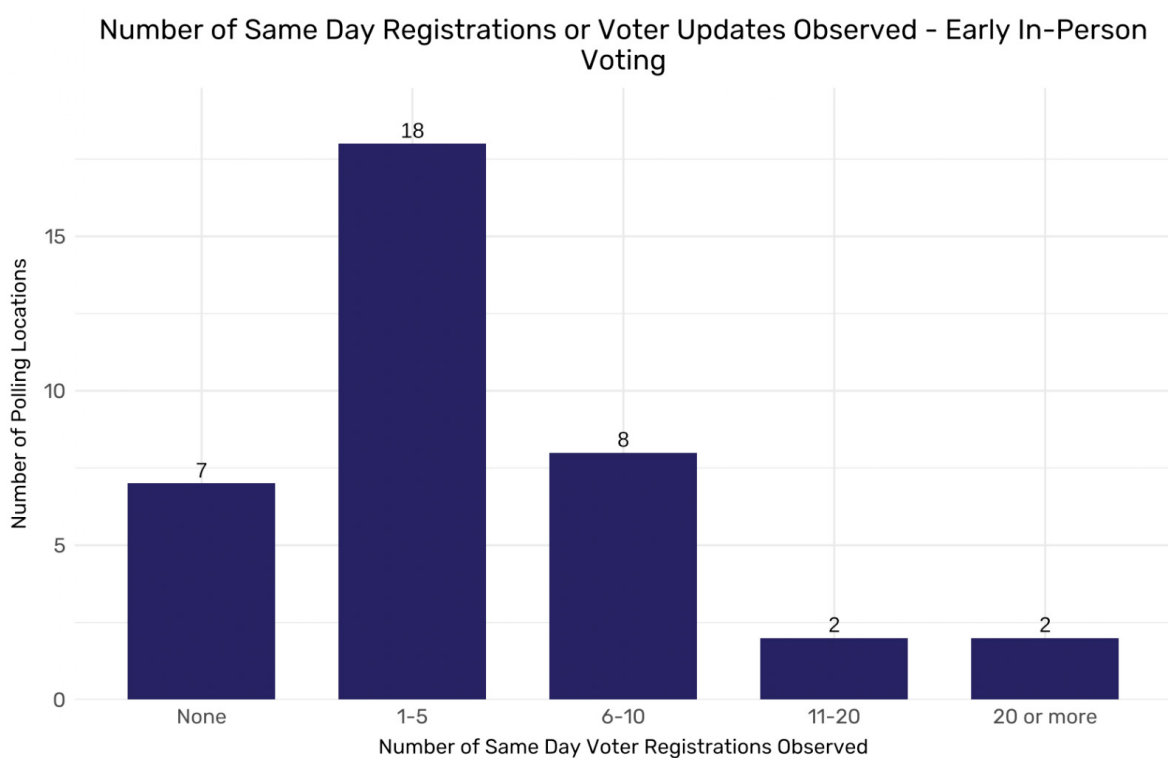
• Same Day Registration

ONME observers were also asked questions on the volume and procedures of same-day registration.

In total, ONME observers were asked four questions on the following content:

- The number of people asking for same-day registration or updates
- Whether same-day registrants signed an affidavit
- The ballot types given to those requesting same-day registration

The graph shows the number of polling locations where people asking for same-day registration or voter updates were observed. The responses ranged from none (as in, no person asking for same day registration was observed), to 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, or 20 or more people. Most locations (18 locations) observed between 1-5 people asking for same-day registration. In eight locations, between 6-10 people wanting to same-day register were observed. Two locations observed between 11-20, and another two observed 20 or more voters wishing to register and vote on the same day. In seven locations, no person was observed to register the same day they were trying to vote, and one observer in one location noted they were unable to observe this aspect of voting.



The graphs shows an estimate of the people who requested same day registrations or voter updates that were observed in each polling location. The share ranged from none, 1-5 people, 6-10 people, 11-20, 20 or more.

As expected, a larger number of people requesting same-day registration were observed in the more populous urban municipalities. Both locations observing between 11-20 new registration requests were in Albuquerque, and one location in Albuquerque and one in Santa Fe observed 20 or more people.

People requesting same-day registration or requesting updates to their voter registration information need to sign an affidavit saying that they have not already voted. Observers were asked whether they were able to observe the affidavit signing 100% of the time (yes), mostly or most of the time (sometimes - clarified to mean less than half of the time), or never. In the interest of clarity, the table excludes observers who were unable to observe.

As the table shows, most locations where same day voter registrations were observed also saw that 100% people were asked to sign an affidavit. Only in one location in Albuquerque was this observed to only be the case sometimes. In a total of four locations, one in Alamogordo, two in Albuquerque, and one in Santa Fe, this was observed to have never been the case.

Number of Polling Places in Which Same Day Registrants Were Asked to Sign an Affidavit - Early In-Person Voting	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Gallup	Las Vegas	Santa Fe
Yes		6	2	1	3
Sometimes		1			
No	1	2			1

Finally, ONME observers were asked what types of ballots were provided to voters who had requested same-day registration. It should be noted that, generally, when a voter's name does not appear in the electronic poll-book or paper roster, they should be given the opportunity to complete same-day registration and then receive a regular ballot.

As the table shows, most locations did in fact only hand out regular ballots. In six locations (five in Albuquerque and one in Las Vegas), ONME observers saw both provisional and regular ballots being given to voters who utilized same day voter registration. Finally, only one location, in Las Cruces, was observed to have exclusively handed out provisional ballots to voters who registered the same day.

Ballots Given to Voters Requesting Same Day Registration	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos
Only regular	1	9	2	0	0	5	1	1
Both	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
Only provisional	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

• Resolving Voter Issues

Every polling location encounters situations throughout Election Day that require officials to solve problems related to voters, ballots, and equipment. Because these moments directly affect one's ability to vote, it is critical that officials follow the correct procedures and issues are resolved promptly and effectively.

ONME observers were asked about the following:

- Voters who were:
 - turned away because they were registered in a different county
 - erroneously turned away due to a felony conviction
 - potentially ineligible to vote but given the chance to vote via a provisional ballot
- Conduct involving spoiled ballots
- Conduct involving provisional ballots
- Equipment malfunctions

1. Voters Who Were Turned Away

Overall, only a few ONME observers noted that voters were turned away because they were registered in a

different county. This was observed to have happened in four locations in Albuquerque. In each of these four locations voters were given information about where to vote instead.

An ONME observer also observed one voter being unlawfully turned away due to a prior felony conviction. Since July 1, 2023 individuals with felony convictions are automatically eligible to vote upon release from incarceration. An observer at the Los Ranchos Villa in Albuquerque noted that, “a citizen went up to the sample ballot station and stated that they were trying to figure out how to vote because they had a prior felony conviction. The election official told her that she didn’t think she would be able to and shared that her brother had a prior felony conviction and was unable to vote.” We recommend that, particularly in Bernalillo County, officials ensure that election workers are knowledgeable about voter eligibility guidelines.

Finally, observers were asked whether voters who were turned away from the polls throughout the day were offered a provisional ballot. Observers in Albuquerque (two locations), Taos (one location) and Alamogordo (one location) noted that turned-away voters were affirmatively offered provisional ballots.

2. Spoiled/Mismarked Ballots

Observers were also asked if they:

- Saw a voter ask for a replacement for a spoiled ballot
- If spoiled ballots were clearly labeled and retained separately

Observers noted that when they observed a voter requesting a new ballot, they received a ballot and that all such ballots were clearly labeled and retained separately.

3. Provisional Ballots

Similarly, observers were asked about:

- The number of voters who were turned away without being given the option to vote using a provisional ballot
- Whether voters using provisional ballots received written instructions
- Whether provisional ballots were clearly identifiable and retained separately.

ONME observers saw a small number of prospective voters being turned away without being given the opportunity to vote using a provisional ballot. 1-5 people were observed to have been turned away in one location in Alamogordo, two in Albuquerque, and one in Taos.

All observers noted that they were either unable to observe this stage of the process, that no provisional ballots were being filled out/given out, or that, in the cases in which provisional ballots were used, voters received written instructions about how to follow up on the status of their ballot 100% of the time. For a follow-up of locations where voters were observed to have voted with provisional ballots, all observers noted that these ballots were clearly identified and retained separately.

4. Equipment Malfunctions

Even the most thoroughly tested equipment can malfunction. We therefore asked observers what types of equipment malfunctions they observed throughout the day and to elaborate further on the issues they observed.

The following number of locations were observed to have at least one piece of election equipment malfunction during the period our observers were present: six in Albuquerque, one in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, three in Santa Fe, and one in Taos.

The table below provides a more detailed description of the equipment malfunctions observed, the municipality in which they occurred, whether they caused disruption, and whether the issue was resolved. To clarify, disruption in this case means that the error or malfunction caused delays to voters or caused the voting process to be suspended. In some cases, ONME observers specified whether they felt the malfunction disrupted the process. In other cases, we determined based on the description that the malfunction disrupted the voter experience.

Location	Error/Malfunction Type	Caused significant disruption?
Albuquerque	Printer issue	No
	The main computer crashed while a voter was using it. However, since the location had backup data, this meant that voter data was saved.	No
	Printer misprinting, resulting in multiple ballots having to be spoiled. The sample ballot printer would not print, leading some to leave who did not want to wait.	Yes
	One tabulator is out of commission from the previous day. One printer printed a ballot on two pieces of paper, leading to the ballot having to be spoiled	No
	Printer malfunction required a couple of ballots to be spoiled	Yes
	The voter registration station computer went down a few times, but the reboot was fast.	No
Las Cruces	Computer mouse malfunction	No
Las Vegas	The tabulator died because it was not properly plugged in and ran out of power	No
Santa Fe	Some printers overheated	No
	Scanner malfunction	No
	Electronic tabulator jamming and reading the jammed ballot that was spoiled after it rebooted. The machine was put back into service after inspection, and at the end of the day removed and replaced.	No
Taos	A ballot was loaded and the bell rang. Five minutes later someone entered their ballot and both that and the previous ballot came out of the machine. They were reloaded and the County Clerk was notified at the end of the day over the phone.	No

• Electronic Vote Tabulators

ONME observers were asked whether all voters with a regular ballot placed their voted ballots in an electronic vote tabulator before exiting the voting location. Every observer responded affirmatively to this question.

• Language Assistance

Some voters may need assistance in languages other than English to cast a vote. In New Mexico, every polling location is required to provide voting information in Spanish, and in this year’s observed counties, Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan counties are required to provide language materials in various Native languages, including appropriate Pueblo languages, Navajo (Diné), and Ute.

Language assistance requests were observed by a small number of voters in a few locations – in particular, two voters in one location in Albuquerque, two voters in one location in Las Cruces, and one voter in one location in Santa Fe. These requests were made for Spanish-language assistance.

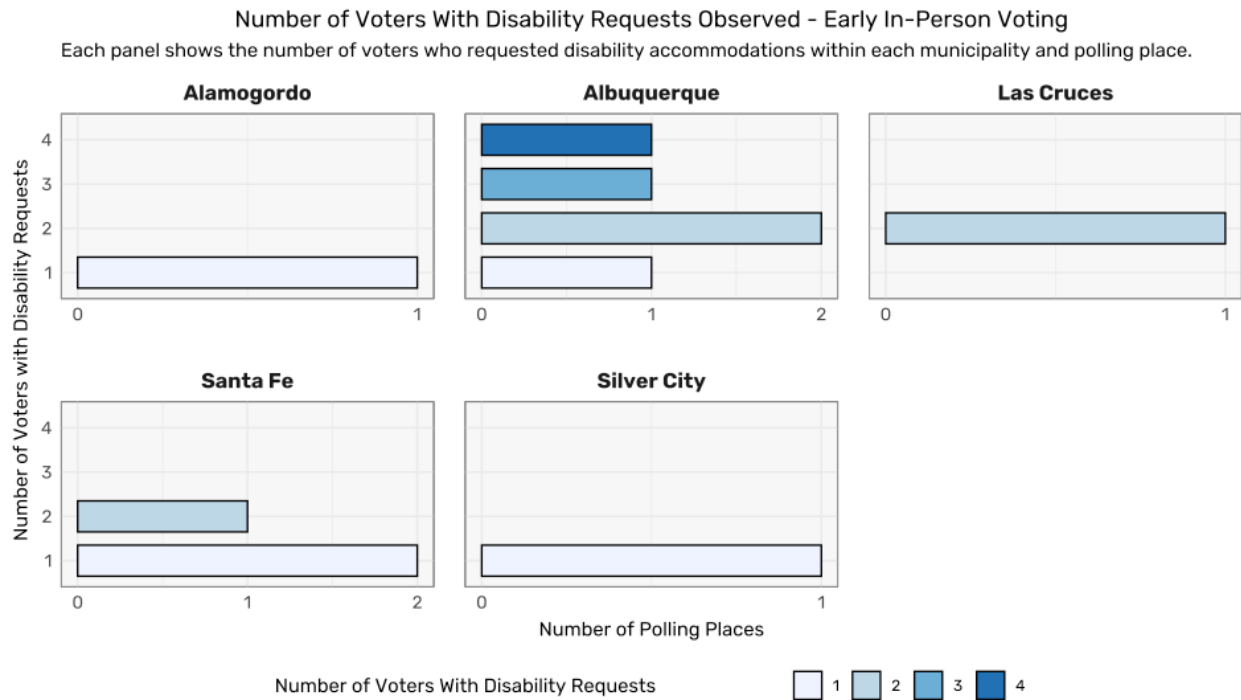
Observers reported that no voters requested verbal translations of the ballots during the period they observed.

• Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

ONME observers reported many instances in which voters with disabilities requested assistance to vote. The graph below shows the number of disability accommodation requests and the number of polling places within each municipality where these requests were observed. In Alamogordo, one voter request was made in one

location. Albuquerque saw the most requests, ranging from one request in one location to four requests in another location. Requests were further observable in one location in Las Cruces, three in Santa Fe, and one in Silver City.

All voters with disabilities who requested an assistant of their choosing were allowed to have an assistant accompany them to vote. However, in one location in Alamogordo, the observer was unable to observe whether this happened or not.



Finally, it is legally required¹⁶ that all assistants who accompany voters needing assistance into voting locations sign a signature roster or electronic pollbook alongside the name of the voter. This procedure was observed to be followed in almost half the locations where assistants were observed (four locations in Albuquerque and one location in Las Cruces). However, in one location each in Alamogordo and Silver City and in three locations in Santa Fe, observers were unable to observe whether the assistant signed the signature roster. In one location in Albuquerque, the observer reported that the signature protocol was not followed.

This legally required procedure is essential for documenting and standardizing the assistance process, ensuring both accountability and transparency regarding who is accompanying and aiding voters inside the polling place. ONME wishes to highlight that consistent adherence to the signature roster requirement is vital to safeguard against potential improper influence and maintain the integrity of the ballot cast.

• **Challenges of Voter Eligibility**

Challengers in a polling place can question the eligibility of certain voters in order to ensure the integrity of the election process. No challenges to voter eligibility were observed in any early voting locations where ONME observers were present.

• **Peace Officers and Law Enforcement**

Election judges may ask a peace officer to help maintain order at a voting location (both outside or at the entrance). No peace officers were recorded to be present at any of the early voting locations on the days when ONME observers were present.

• **Staffing, Supplies, and Wait Times**

Maintaining sufficient staff and supplies is critical to ensuring that wait times are not excessive and that voting is a smooth, easy process.

¹⁶ NM Stat § 1-12-15: B: The name of the person providing assistance to a voter pursuant to this section shall be recorded on the signature roster.

Consistently across all locations observed, observers' reports were positive. Observers at all locations reported that there were sufficient staff and equipment to ensure the voting process ran smoothly. Additionally, no observers reported any voters leaving the line because it was too long, and, during the period observers were present, the presiding judge did not suspend the voter identification requirements for same-day voter registration due to long lines.

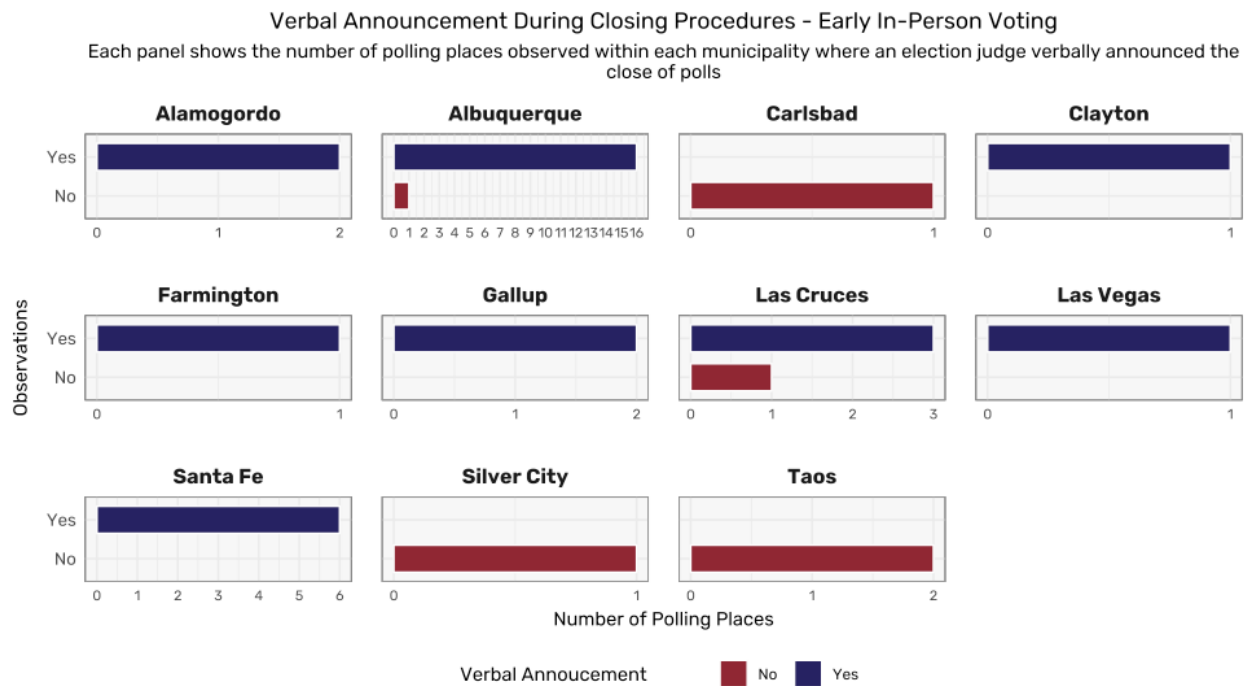
One observer at one location in Albuquerque reported that, at one point, their location ran out of essential materials. Specifically, this observer reported that the location had run out of the pink paper they used as a kind of receipt or cover sheet for each ballot. However, they also reported that, eventually, someone came to replenish it.

Close of Polls

When polls close, election judges and poll workers, as in all other steps during voting location operations, complete procedures to ensure that guidelines, rules, and laws are followed.

A critical step in this process is that election judges are expected to verbally announce the closure of polls. Observers in most locations were able to observe this. In 86% of all locations, observers responded affirmatively and in 13% of locations, observers indicated that verbal announcements of closures did not happen.

Locations where verbal announcements were observed were as follows: in two locations in Alamogordo, 16 in Albuquerque, one in Clayton, one in Farmington, two in Gallup, three in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, and six in Santa Fe. However, in one location in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, one in Las Cruces, one in Silver City, and two in Taos, observers noted that election judges did not do so.

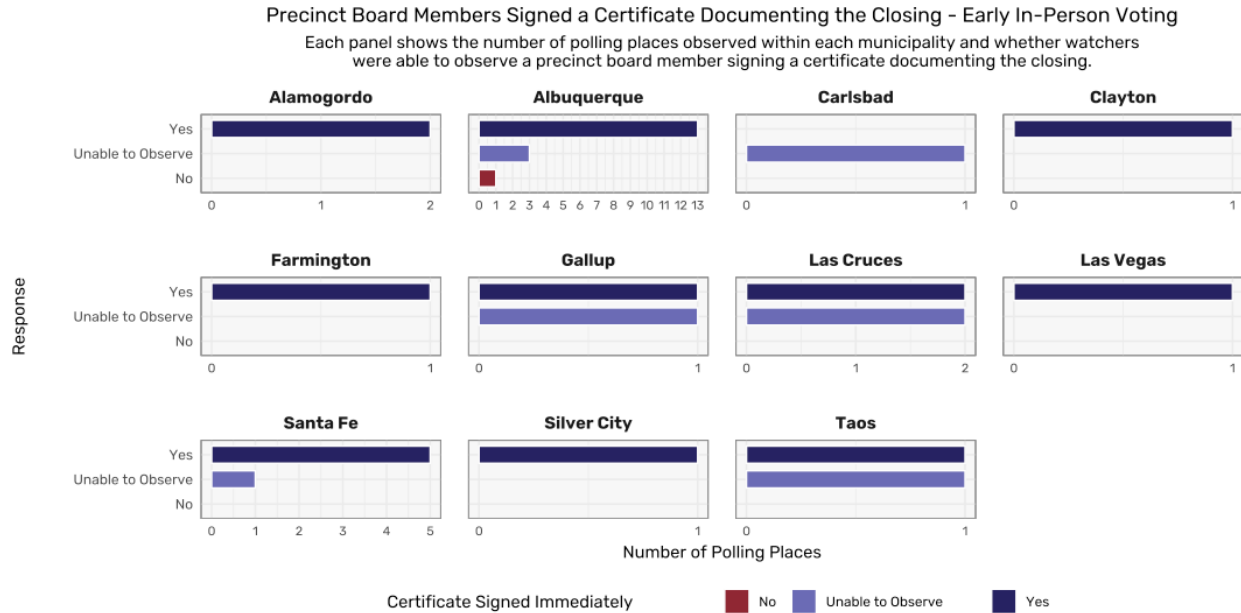


Additionally, no observers observed any individuals arriving after the polls closed.

All observed locations closed at their scheduled time.

All observers, except for one in Santa Fe, observed election officials or precinct board members present when the voting location closed. The number of election officials or precinct board members observed ranged from 1 in Clayton to 20 in Las Cruces. The single polling location in Clayton had only one election official or precinct board member at closing on the day our observer observed. We recommend that at least two election officials are present at all times to ensure that no ballot is handled without oversight.

Finally, ONME observers were asked if precinct board members completed and signed a certificate documenting the closing of the voting location as soon as the polls closed. As the bar graphs show, this procedure was followed in most locations where observers were present. Specifically, observers saw this in two locations in Alamogordo, 13 in Albuquerque, one in Clayton, one in Farmington, one in Gallup, two in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, five in Santa Fe, one in Silver City, and one in Taos. Multiple observers were unable to observe this process, including in three locations in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, one in Gallup, two in Las Cruces, one in Santa Fe, and one in Taos. Finally, one observer in Albuquerque noted that the precinct board member(s) did not follow this procedure.

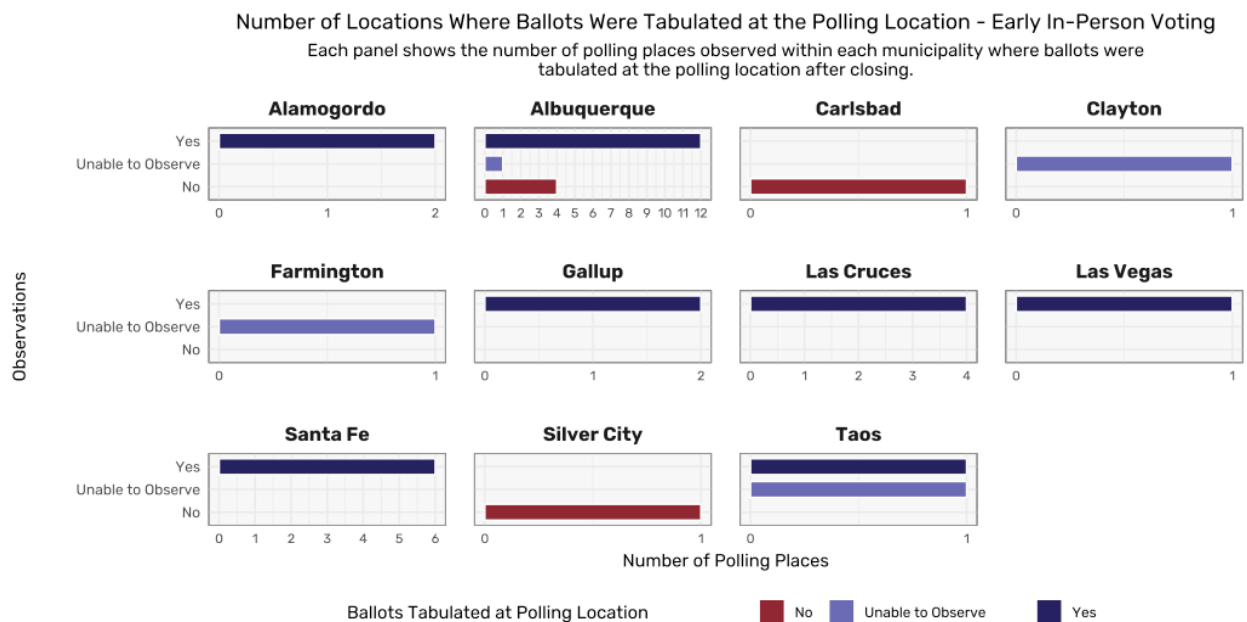


Securing the Polls

Following proper closing procedures and ballot handling are critical steps to ensure that elections are conducted as required. During Early In-Person Voting, it is up to the counties to determine their procedures for securing ballots between voting days and whether tabulation is done at the precinct or at a central location. This leads to a variation in practices between different polling locations. However, it is important to note that this variation is not an indication of lack of security within the process.

ONME observers were asked whether ballots were tabulated at the polling location where they observed. In total, ONME observers responded to this question affirmatively at 73.7% of locations. 10.5% of observers reported being unable to observe this, and the remaining 15.8% stated that ballots were not tabulated at the polling location.

The bar graph below provides a detailed breakdown of where ballots were reported to have been tabulated. As the graph shows, ballots were not observed to have been tabulated in four locations in Albuquerque, one location in Carlsbad, and one in Silver City. One observer each was unable to observe ballot tabulation in Albuquerque, Clayton, Farmington, and Taos. In the remainder of the locations, observers reported that ballots were tabulated at the polling location.

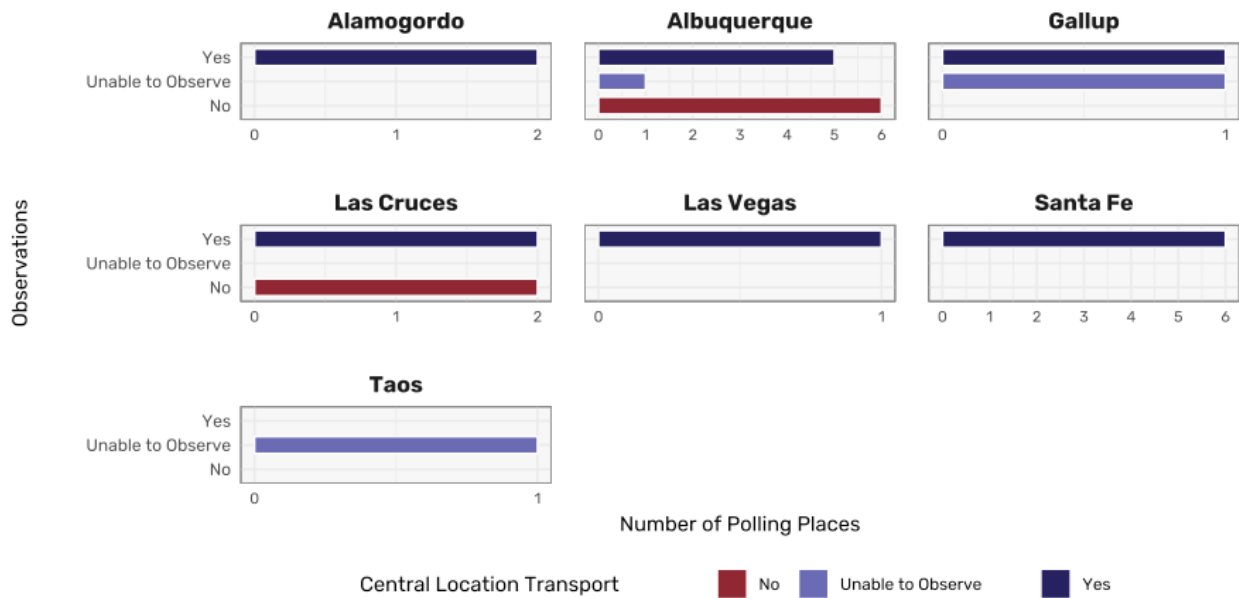


The graph below shows the number of polling locations in each county where tabulated ballots were observed to have been transported to a central location after tabulation. As mentioned previously, practices followed during early in-person Voting may differ by county but differences are not an indication of degree of election security. For example, usually, in Bernalillo County during early in-person voting, ballots are retained in a secure location on the premises and not transferred to a centralized location.

As the graph shows, ballots were transported to a central location after tabulation in two locations in Alamogordo, five in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, two in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, and six in Santa Fe. Observers were unable to observe in the following locations: one in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, and one in Taos. Ballots were observed to have not been transported in six locations in Albuquerque and two locations in Las Cruces.

Tabulated Ballots Transported to Central Location Afterwards - Early In-Person Voting

Each panel shows the number of polling places observed within each municipality (only where ballots were tabulated at the polling location after closing), and responds to the questions of whether ballots were transported to a central location after tabulation.



For observers who reported that the ballots were not tabulated at the polling location after the voting location closed, none observed the ballots being packaged and transmitted to a central counting facility for tabulation.

• Chain of Custody & Ballot Security

Observers reported very high compliance with ballot-security procedures. In 27 out of 28 locations (96.4% of locations), only precinct board members handled ballots during closing and reconciliation. At one location only in Santa Fe, an observer reported that someone else, a messenger, handled the ballots. This observer explained that: *“There was a messenger to take the ballots back to the central office. He had a secure suitcase on wheels that I was told can be tracked via GPS.”*

Ballot boxes were locked and sealed in 23 out of 28 locations (82.1% of locations). In one location in Las Cruces, the observer observed that this process did not occur. In the remaining four locations (one in Alamogordo, two in Las Cruces, and one in Las Vegas), the observers reported they were unable to observe this process. Observers reported that ballots were removed from tabulators in 74.1% of locations (20 out of 27 locations); however, in one location in Albuquerque, in two Las Cruces locations, and one location in Santa Fe, observers noted that this did not occur. Observers were unable to observe this process at one location each in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas. Finally, in 71.4% of locations (20 out of 28) observers observed all materials being prepared for transmission to the county clerk. Observers noted that this did not occur in three locations (one each in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe) they observed. At five other locations (three in Albuquerque, one in Las Cruces, and one in Taos), observers were unable to observe this process.¹⁷

• Reconciliation & Documentation

Observers saw strong adherence to documentation and reconciliation practices across observed locations. Precinct boards reconciled the number of voters checked in with the number of ballots cast in all locations. Observers observed precinct boards certifying rosters or pollbooks in 22 out of 28 locations (78.6% of locations); in one location in Albuquerque, the observer reported that this did not occur. In the remaining five locations (two in Albuquerque, two in Las Cruces, and one in Santa Fe), observers were unable to observe this process.

• Transparency

One measure of transparency in ballot counting and reconciliation procedures is the extent to which the process was open to the public and the media. Reports from observers in 92.9% (26 out of 28 locations) of loca-

¹⁷ Not all observers were able to see the processes of securing the polls. Therefore, most questions do not have data on all polling locations that were observed throughout the day.

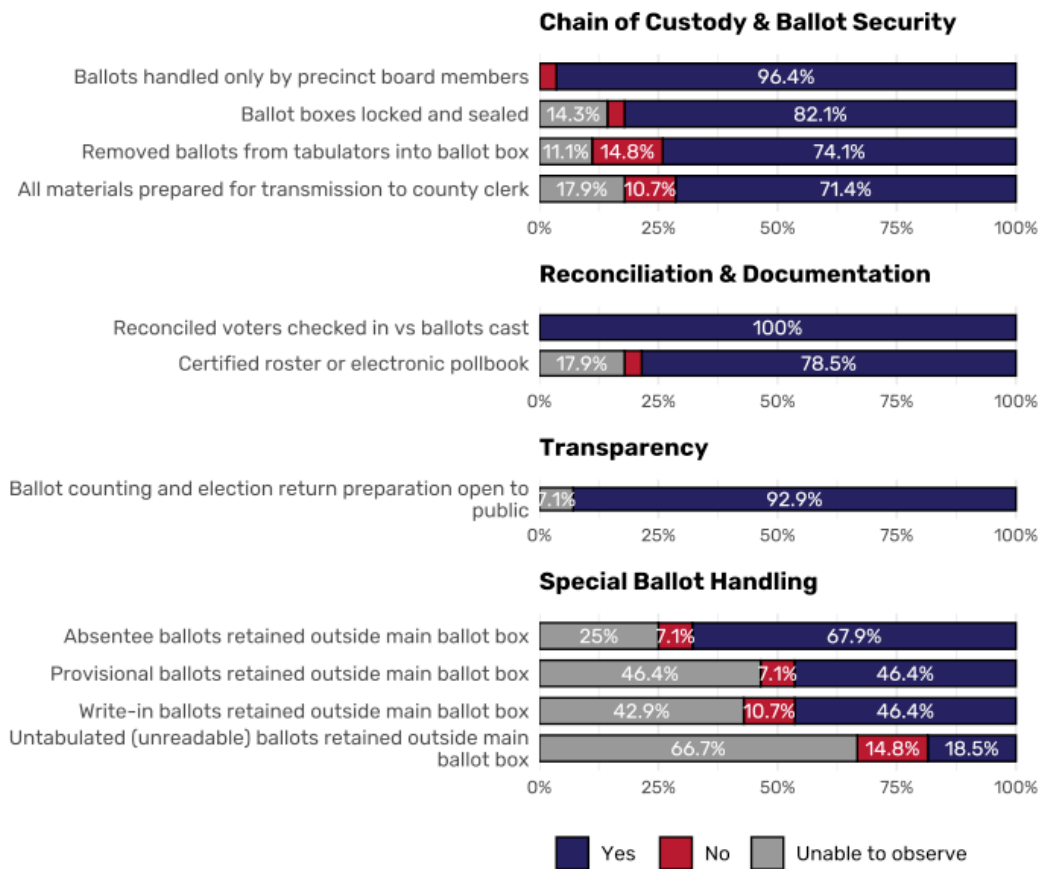
tions indicated that this process was in fact open to the public and the media. In the remaining 7.1% of locations (two locations in Alamogordo and Santa Fe), observers reported being unable to observe this.

• **Handling of Atypical Ballots after the Close of Polls**

While atypical ballots (such as provisional, spoiled, or absentee ballots) were infrequent and generally processed correctly when observers could verify their presence, our findings reveal a significant challenge: observers frequently cannot confirm when ballots other than regular ballots are in use. To close this fundamental transparency gap, ONME has identified a need to improve its processes.

As shown in our graphs, directly observed instances of handling of atypical ballots were rare. For example, only 18.5% of observers reported unreadable ballots being retained outside of the main ballot box. In 18 locations across Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Gallup, Alamogordo, Las Vegas, and Santa Fe, observers were unable to observe this. In one location each in Las Cruces, Gallup, Santa Fe, and Taos, observers reported that these ballots or envelopes were not kept outside of the main ballot box. However, it is also unclear whether this did not occur because unreadable ballots were simply not an issue on the day of observation.

Ballot Closing and Reconciliation Procedures Followed by Observed Locations - Early In-Person Voting



Other Observers and Their Conduct

• Presence of Other Watchers/Observers

The presence of observers in addition to the ONME observers was a rare occurrence. Five Republican observers and one member of the media were noted in Albuquerque. No other observers were identified during closing.

• Conduct of Other Actors

Overall, conduct in polling locations was orderly and calm. However, in a limited number of locations, harassment, violence or intimidation, disruptions, electioneering, and interference or attempts at manipulation were observed on the part of others in the polling place.

1. Electioneering

One observer in one location in Las Vegas reported an incident of electioneering. This observer reported seeing a few voters walking into the locations wearing candidate shirts. Poll workers did not allow those individuals to vote until they removed the political clothing. The same observer observed one candidate quietly trying to campaign to a few voters in line to vote while the election workers were busy with other voters.

Election Day Voting

Highlights on Election Day

- Most locations were highly accessible.
- Almost all locations (98%) opened early or on time. The remaining locations noted that late openings were due to issues outside of poll workers' control.
- Most locations posted critical voting information and instructions (including how to cast a valid vote, opening hours, official contacts for voting rights violations, requesting a new ballot, and information on voter fraud).
- Although state law requires both English and Spanish language materials, only English language materials were available in four locations observed. Of the locations mandated by the Voting Rights Act to have materials in Navajo (Diné), Pueblo languages, or Ute (which, from our observations, include Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan Counties), only two locations, both in Albuquerque, had materials in other languages. One location in Las Cruces, that is not mandated by the VRA, also had materials in other languages. The absence of Native language materials in any location in Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan counties directly violates the VRA's language assistance provisions.
- The midday report showed that any staffing and equipment issues were relatively isolated in nature.
- Long lines/wait times were not a very pronounced concern on Election Day.
- All voters with a regular ballot placed their voted ballots in an electronic vote tabulator before exiting the voting location.
- Observers reported very high compliance with ballot security procedures. Almost all locations observed that polling locations followed established chain of custody procedures, maintained ballot security, conducted a reconciliation of ballots cast at the end of the day with proper documentation, completed required reporting, and appropriately segregated ballots such as provisional ballots, spoiled ballots or absentee ballots from those that had been counted by the electronic vote tabulators. In addition, transparency of these procedures was generally maintained.
-

Election Day took place on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. ONME observers observed 106 sites in eleven municipalities and counties over the course of the day. This section summarizes what ONME observers observed on Election Day, focusing on how voters were served, how procedures were implemented, and whether the elections were administered securely and transparently.

The Observer Experience

Prior to Election Day, each ONME observer completed a training session, received an assignment to a specific

polling location, and was provided with a structured observation checklist. Observers also received a guide to relevant election law and a credential letter from the Secretary of State authorizing their presence as nonpartisan election observers. During the training session, observers were also trained to fill out a mobile form administered using ODK (a mobile data collection platform), which was used to collect data from observers throughout the day.

ONME maintains a central data center that receives real-time updates from observers throughout Election Day and serves as the first point of contact for any issues observers encounter in the field.

• The Observer's Election Day Timeline

6:30 AM – Arrival and Pre-Opening

- Observers arrive at their assigned polling location
- If permitted, they enter to observe election judges and poll workers preparing the polling place
- At 7:00 AM, they watch the polls open, recording the exact opening time and initial line length
- At 7:30 AM, observers submit their first digital report via ODK, documenting arrival and opening procedures

7:30 AM – Polling Place Setup Assessment

- Observers systematically examine the polling place configuration and setup
- They check for required signage, accessibility equipment, and other mandated materials
- At 8:00 AM, they submit their second report detailing the setup and environment

8:00 AM–12:00 PM – Morning Voting Period

- Observers monitor standard voting processes, including voter check-in, same-day registration, absentee ballot receipt, provisional ballot issuance, and ballot collection
- They watch for and document any unusual occurrences
- At 12:00 PM, they submit a midday report focusing on any irregularities observed
- Observers then take a lunch break

Post-Lunch–7:00 PM – Afternoon Voting Period

- Observers continue monitoring standard voting practices: voter check-in, same-day registration, absentee ballot receipt, provisional ballot issuance, and ballot collection

7:00 PM – Poll Closing

- Observers watch the poll closing procedures
- They then submit a report documenting the day's voting process and closing procedures

Post-Closing – Counting and Reconciliation

- Observers monitor ballot counting and reconciliation processes
- These processes may conclude within minutes of closing at 7:00 pm or extend past 12:00 am at night
- Upon completion, observers submit their final report to the data center

Much like the job of administering elections, election observation is demanding work. Observers may spend 13 to 17 hours at their assigned location, from 6:30 AM arrival through ballot counting and reconciliation that can extend past midnight, maintaining focus and attention to detail throughout this marathon day. ONME's program depends entirely on the dedication of these observers who spend their Election Day strengthening democratic accountability in New Mexico. Their careful work provides an invaluable public record, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

Data Collection Overview

In total, 111 ONME observers observed 106 polling locations across the eleven municipalities and counties.¹⁸ In total, these made up 66% of all Election Day sites in these municipalities.

The following number of locations were observed on Election Day:

¹⁸ Five locations were observed by two observers, each of whom observed for part of the day.

Municipality	County	Number of Polling Locations
Alamogordo	Otero	3
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	35
Carlsbad	Eddy	6
Clayton	Union	1
Farmington	San Juan	8
Gallup	McKinley	6
Las Cruces	Doña Ana	20
Las Vegas	San Miguel	2
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	18 ¹⁹
Silver City	Grant	2 ²⁰
Taos	Taos	5

As with other stages of the observed electoral processes, ONME observers were asked to fill out a checklist to report what they observed. In total, the checklist for Election Day Voting included 116 questions (with some questions having some follow-up and/or clarifying questions). The areas of interest in these checklists included the following:

- Arrival and Opening:
 - Accessibility of the Voting Place
 - Presence of Election Officials
 - Opening the Polls
- Setup and Environment:
 - Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening
 - Posted Voting Information and Instructions
- Midday Report
 - Status of the Polling Location up to 12:30pm
- Voting Process:
 - Voter Check-in
 - Same-Day Registration
 - Resolving Voter Issues
 - Electronic Vote Tabulators
 - Absentee Ballots
 - Language Assistance
 - Assistance for Voters with Disabilities
 - Challenges to Voter Eligibility
 - Peace Officers and Law Enforcement
 - Staffing, Supplies, and Wait Times
- Close of Polls
- Ballot Counting and Preparation of Returns:
 - Closing Procedures and Ballot Handling
 - Observer Objections at Closing
- Other Observers/Watchers during Opening, Set Up, Voting, and Closing
- Improved Understanding of Electoral Process²¹

The full list of questions and response options can be found in Appendix 4.

¹⁹ With a total of 22 observers. In four locations, observers divided up shifts between morning and afternoon.

²⁰ With a total of three observers. One location divided up shifts between morning and afternoon.

²¹ Each observer, at each stage of the process they observed, was asked whether the observation experience resulted in a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All of those findings are summarized in the section on “Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative” and will not be further discussed in the other sections.

Arrival and Opening

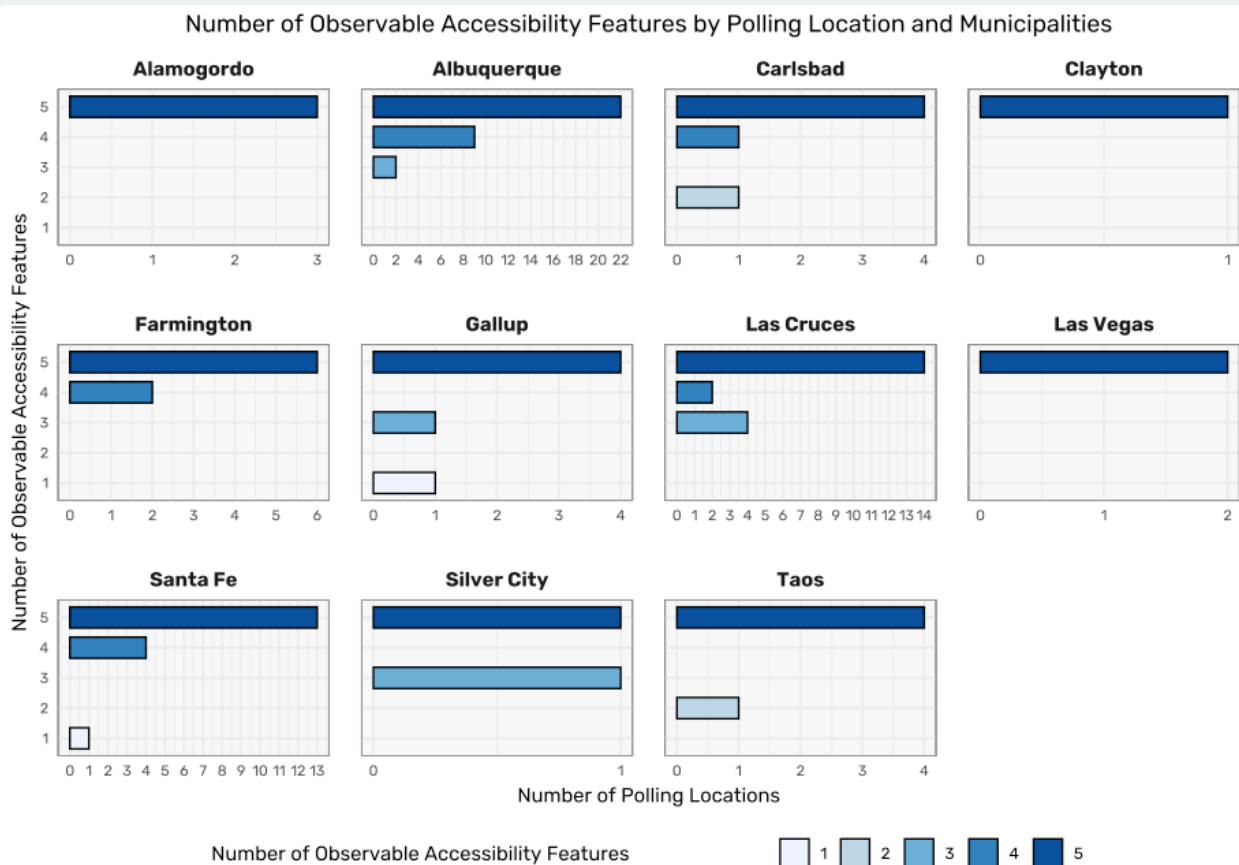
• Accessibility of the Voting Place

Every voting place should be accessible for prospective voters with disabilities. To assess how accessible voting places were, ONME observers were asked whether they were able to identify any of the following accessibility features when they arrived at the voting location:

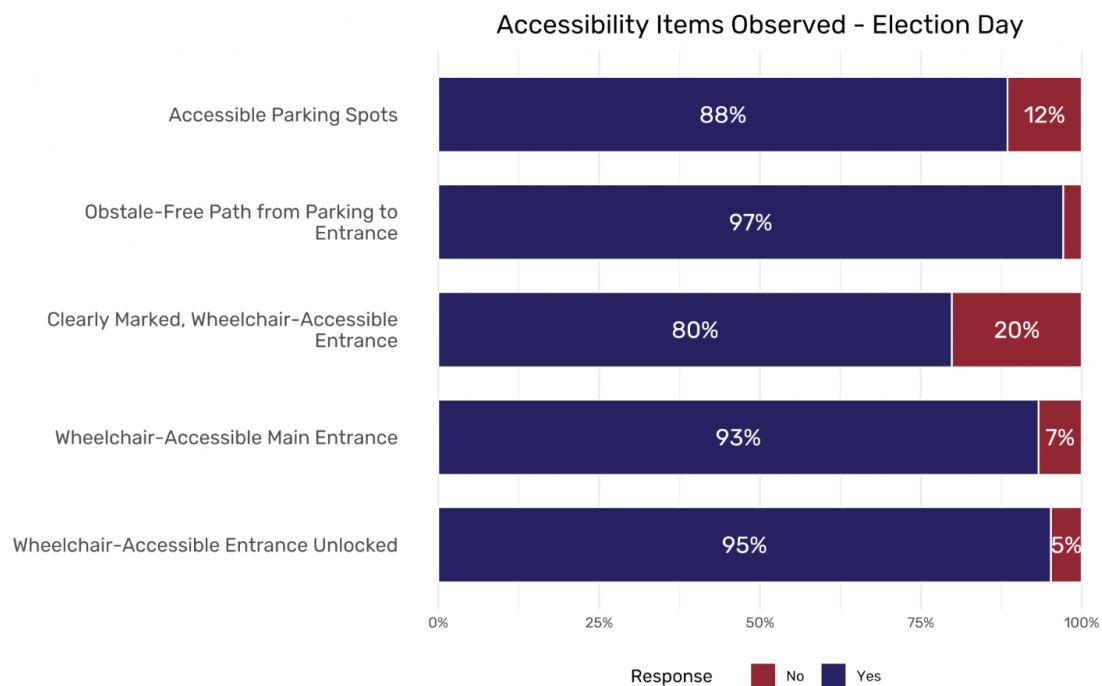
- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired
- A clearly marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked

Similarly to the previous electoral processes observed, ONME observers were asked five questions about these features.

Overall, accessibility features were present at many voting locations observed. In 71% of locations observed, all five features were observable, meaning that these locations had 1) accessible parking spots, 2) obstacle-free paths, and 3) wheelchair-accessible entrances that were not only 4) main entrances but also 5) unlocked. Compared to the early in-person voting locations where ONME observers were present, the percentage of locations that fully meet all accessibility items we ask for was lower on Election Day. As the graph below shows, at least one accessibility feature was not observable in eleven locations in Albuquerque, two in Carlsbad, two in Farmington, two in Gallup, six in Las Cruces, five in Santa Fe, one in Silver City, and one in Taos.



The horizontal graph below shows the further breakdown of which accessibility features were more consistently observed than others. As the graph shows, overall, most accessibility features were observed. Almost all locations had an obstacle-free path from parking to entrance (97%). The exceptions were one location in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, and one in Santa Fe. 80% of observed locations had a wheelchair-accessible entrance that was clearly marked. This was not an observable feature in a total of 21 locations: Six in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, one in Farmington, two in Gallup, four in Las Cruces, five in Santa Fe, one in Silver City, and one in Taos. Although only 80% of observed polling locations had clearly marked wheelchair-entrances, this is not an indication of whether the entrances were in fact wheelchair-accessible or not. This is evident for the next question on whether the main entrance was wheelchair-accessible, which was the case for most locations (93%). A total of seven locations (one in Farmington, one in Gallup, three in Las Cruces, one in Santa Fe, and one in Taos) did not have a wheelchair-accessible main entrance, although it may have been possible that these locations had a side or back entrance that was wheelchair-accessible. Similarly, almost all locations (95%) had a wheelchair-accessible entrance that was unlocked. The exceptions were five total locations, or one each in Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Gallup, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.



It is important to note here that this is not an assessment of ADA compliance of a voting location. However, we hope our findings are helpful for voting locations as they plan forward to ensure that their facilities are as accessible as possible to all voters.

• **Opening the Polls**

ONME observers were asked whether polls officially opened at their scheduled time (7:00 am on Election Day throughout the state), whether there was a line of voters waiting before the polling place opened, and whether election officials were present. They were also asked, before the follow-up questions, whether they were able or unable to observe the opening of the poll location, and if they were unable to, if it was because they were not allowed by election officials to enter the facility prior to the opening of the polls.

1. Opening the Polls

Opening of the polls was observable in 90.4% of locations (94 locations in total). Three observers, (in 2.9% of all locations), explained that they were not allowed in to observe the opening. In 6.7% of locations (or seven locations), observers stated they did not observe the opening of the polls for other reasons. The locations where observers were not allowed to observe the opening were in one location each in Albuquerque, Clayton, and Taos. Since there was only one observer in Clayton and that observer was not allowed in to watch the opening, none of the data below includes information on this location.

Almost all locations, 97.9% of locations (or 87 locations) opened early or on time. One location in Albuquerque and one location in Farmington opened 3-4 minutes late and one location in Las Cruces (2.1% of all locations) opened 24 minutes late because a janitor arrived late to open the poll location.

2. Voter Lines at Opening

Compared to early in-person voting, a higher share of locations reported lines before polling places officially opened. 56% of all observed locations (53 out of 94 locations) had lines at opening. Specifically, lines at opening were observed in the following municipalities: Alamogordo (three out of three observed locations), Albuquerque (23 out of 31 locations), Carlsbad (three out of six locations), Gallup (two out of five locations), Las Cruces (eight out of 19 locations), Las Vegas (two out of two locations), Santa Fe (nine out of 15 locations), Silver City (two out of two locations), and Taos (one out of three locations).

The line lengths were generally small – meaning between 1-10 people were observed. Small lines were observed in 16 locations in Albuquerque, three in Alamogordo, three in Carlsbad, two in Gallup, eight in Las Cruces, two in Las Vegas, six in Santa Fe, one in Silver City, and one in Taos.

Moderate length lines, meaning lines that ranged from 11-50 people, were observed in six locations in Bernalillo, three in Santa Fe, and one in Grant County. Large lines with between 50-99 people were only observed in one location in Albuquerque.



When asked if they observed anything noteworthy about the line, all observers who entered information explained that everything went smoothly and moved quickly.

Some observers noted how helpful and supportive poll workers were. One observer at an Albuquerque location with a medium-length line noted that the presiding judge identified voters in line who needed to register or change their address before polls opened. This observer assessed this as being helpful to channel voters to the right polling officials efficiently. Another observer in Las Cruces, who observed a voter in a wheelchair with an attendant in line, noted that the presiding judge opted to let this lone voter come in early (at 6:58 am) and wait by the entrance until 7 am because it was cold. The observer assessed that this voter was treated with dignity and reasonable accommodations.

Two observers provided additional information. One observer in Gallup explained that the line moved quickly, but that the presiding judge had to notify voters of the opening time, because multiple voters tried to enter the facility to vote before the scheduled opening time. Another observer in Alamogordo noted that one person in line had to wait until 7:17 am because their voter information did not match. They noted that the election officials fixed this on the electronic pollbook, and that the voter themselves noted that this had happened the previous year and that the process had taken almost an hour.

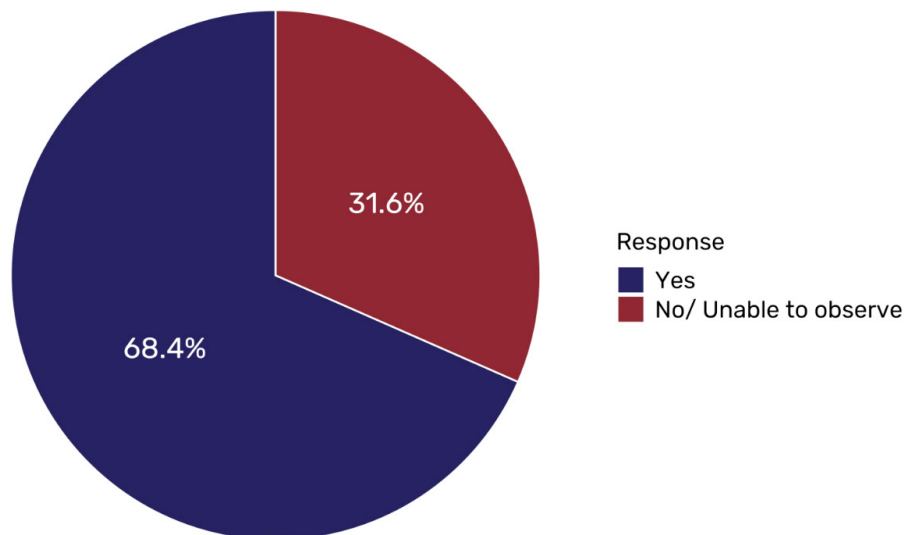
3. Election Official Presence and Conduct

There was a large variation in the number of election officials that were observed by ONME observers. Overall, observers observed between 1–16 election officials in the polling places where they observed at the time of opening. On average, about eight election workers were observed to be present. One location in Taos was observed to have only one election worker present at the time of opening. We recommend that every location, regardless of size, have at least two election officials working at all times to ensure that no ballot is handled without oversight.

ONME observers were also asked whether they observed precinct board members/poll workers checking the total number of lifetime votes displayed on each voting machine’s counter and confirming that it matched the numbers on the machine’s certificates. This security measure helps to ensure that voting equipment has not been tampered with since the time that it was tested, certified and sealed.

In 68.4% locations, observers were able to observe precinct board members performing this security measure. In the remaining 31.6% of locations, observers noted that they were either unable to observe or that poll workers did not check machine counters (in 9.5% of locations, they noted precinct board members did not perform this measure, and in 22.1% of locations, observers were unable to observe).

Were Observers Able to Observe Poll Workers Check Machine Counters and Match Them With the Certificate? Election Day



Set Up and Environment

• Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening

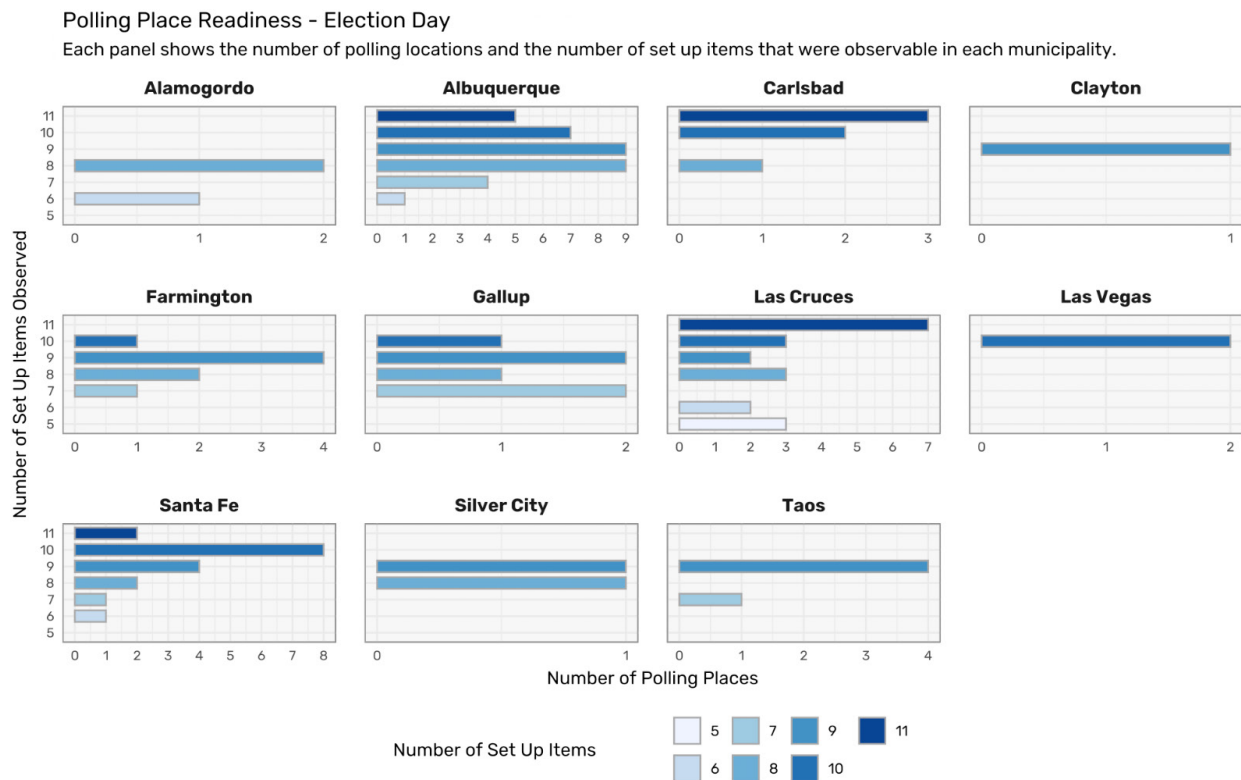
Voting locations should be set up to ensure that, regardless of what time voters arrive within opening hours, they are able to easily understand the voting process and easily cast their votes.

To assess how ready each observed voting location was, ONME observers were asked to assess the following (corresponding to questions 13 - 23 on the checklist):

- Voting stations were set up
- Privacy ensured in the voting station set up
- Instructions on each voting station
- Roster or electronic check-in system set up at opening
- Regular ballots or way to print ballots at opening
- Provisional ballots or way to print ballots at opening
- Accessible voting system:
 - At least one available
 - Instructions
 - Set up
 - Turned on
 - Test ballots run through to confirm it is working

1. Overall Voting Location Setup and Readiness at Opening

The graph shows how many of the above-mentioned readiness features were seen by ONME observers. The x-axes, which are the horizontal lines, show the number of polling places observed in each municipality, while the y-axes, which are the vertical numbers, show the number of features visible.

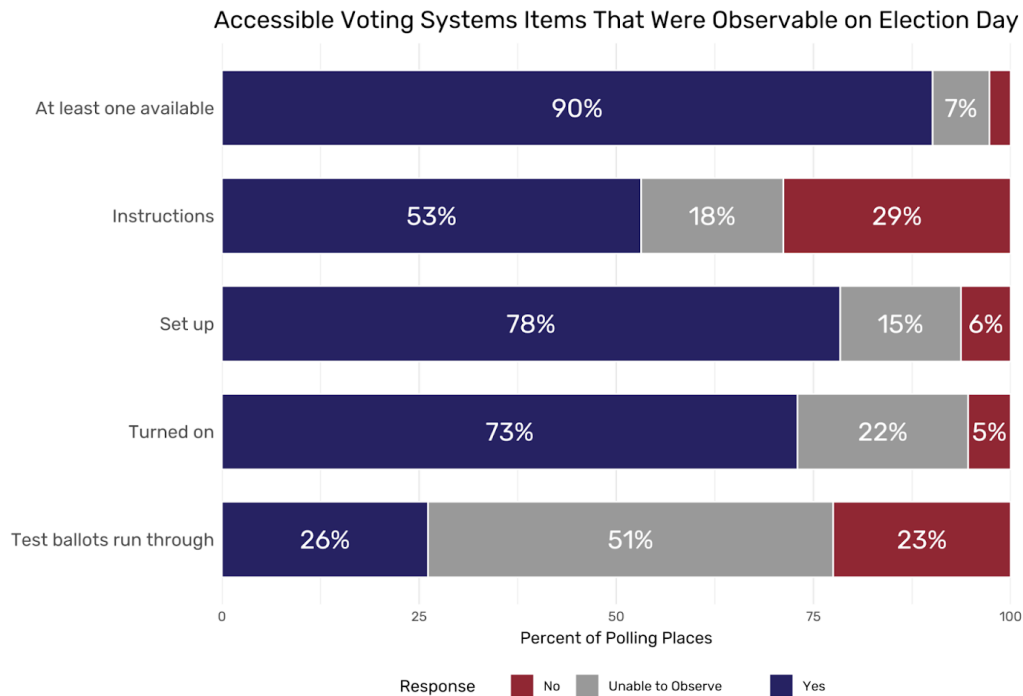


As the graph shows, there was large variation in how many setup features were observable across locations. In some locations, five features were observable (three polling places in Las Cruces), while in others, all eleven were observable (five in Albuquerque, three in Carlsbad, seven in Las Cruces, and two in Santa Fe).

2. Accessible Voting Systems During Setup

Primarily, the items that were unobservable to a majority of observers were the availability of accessible voting systems, whether they were set up and turned on, whether they had instructions, and whether election officials tested them during opening and setup. This is consistent with the observation findings from early in-person voting. Given that most accessible voting systems are built into tabulators, ONME observers were frequently unable to observe these systems without directly asking a busy election official, or seeing a voter make use of the system.

The following horizontal bar graph shows a breakdown of the items that ONME observers were and were not able to observe. As mentioned above, some items were made more challenging to observe (such as whether accessible voting systems were tested or not) than others. The item that should be the easiest to observe, whether instructions on how to use an accessible voting system (AVS) were available or not, was observed in only half of all locations observed (53%). Although accessible voting systems were observed in almost all locations (90%), 7% of observers noted that they were unable to observe these systems and 3% said that these systems were not available (in one location in Alamogordo and two in Las Cruces). To ensure that all voters can vote on equipment designed with accessible features, ONME recommends that instructions for their use be posted clearly from the time the polls open such that voters can see them upon entering the polling place, and that accessible equipment be made readily available and sufficiently tested.

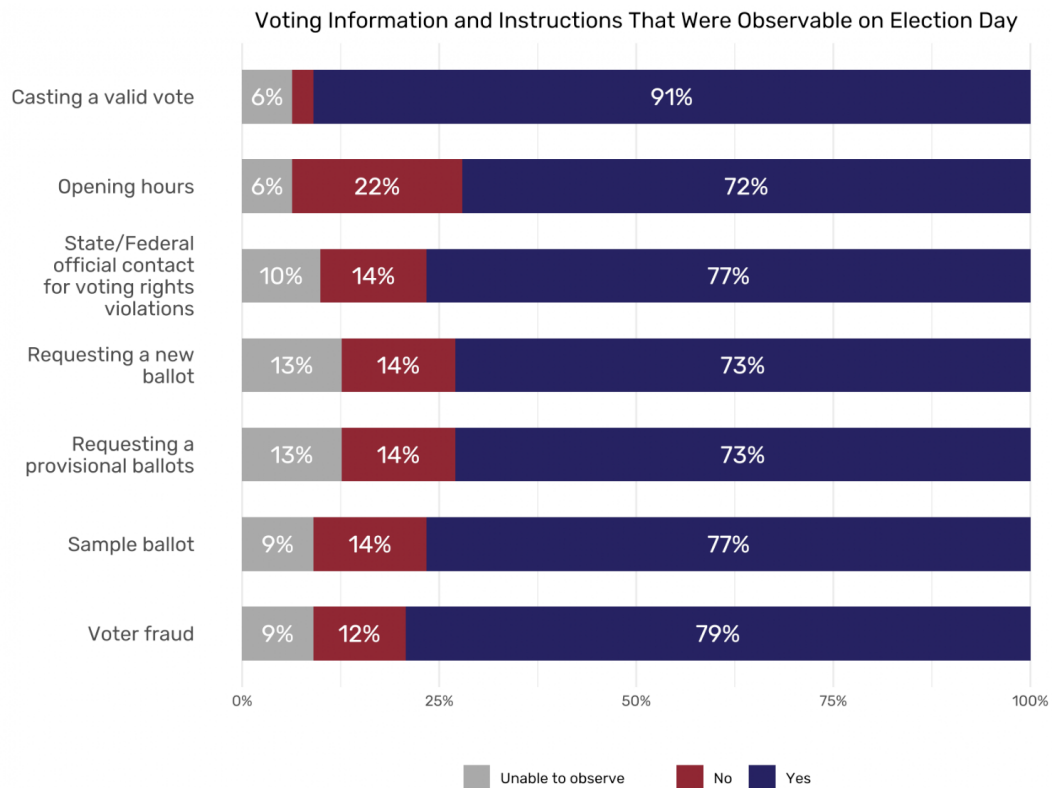


• Voting Information and Instructions

Posting voter information and instructions is not only required by law but is also valuable to aid voters, in particular first-time voters, through the voting process. We recommend that every polling location, regardless of size, post information that voters should know about. To assess how polling locations did, we asked ONME observers if they were able to observe the following:

- Instructions on casting a valid vote
- Hours of operation: The times and days one can go to a voting place (polling location) to cast a ballot
- Voters' rights and relevant laws: posted guidance on one's entitlements and the legal framework governing elections. This includes:
 - Procedures for casting and requesting provisional ballots
 - Regulations prohibiting voter fraud or misrepresentation
- Ballot information, detailing how one votes. This encompasses:
 - Instructions on how to request a new ballot
 - Sample ballots demonstrating how to fill out one's own ballot so it is counted

In total, ONME observers were asked seven questions about what type of information was posted (Questions 24-31 on the checklist).

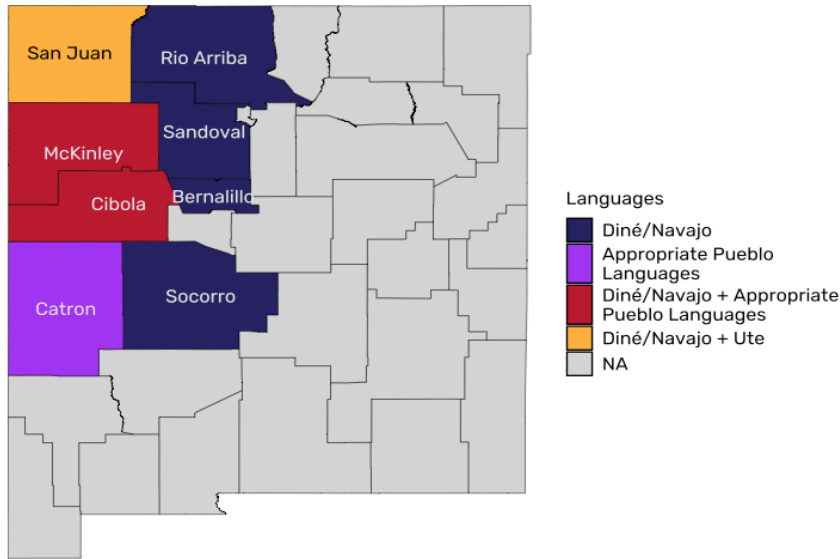


A closer look at the distribution of responses for each of the voter information and instructions items illustrates that most items were observed. As the graph shows, instructions on casting a valid vote was most often observed, with 91% of observed locations having posted this information. Only in 3% of locations did observers explicitly mention such information was not posted (one in Farmington and two in Santa Fe), and in the remaining 6%, observers were unable to observe (one in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, four in Santa Fe, and one in Silver City). Prohibitions against voter fraud were generally posted as well, in 79% of locations. Sample ballots and contact information for reporting voting rights violations were posted in over three quarters of observed locations (77%). Information on how to request or cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to request a new ballot were also posted frequently, in 73% of locations. Hours of operation were visible to the fewest observers, but still a vast majority were able to observe this in 72% of locations. No information on the hours of operations were posted in 24 locations (22% total), and seven observers were unable to observe (6%).

In addition to questions about which types of information observers saw at their polling locations, they were also asked whether information was posted in languages other than English.

While every county in the state is required to provide information to voters in Spanish and English, a certain number of counties, as seen on the map, are further required to provide information in Native languages. Relevantly for this year's observation, elections in Bernalillo, McKinley, and San Juan Counties (which include the municipalities of Albuquerque, Gallup, and Farmington) are required to provide information in Navajo (Diné). Additionally, McKinley and San Juan Counties are also required to provide information in the appropriate Pueblo languages or Ute, respectively. It is important to note that offering information in these languages is required by federal law and/or state election guidelines.

Counties Where Native Languages are Required by Federal Law/State Election Guidelines



Language availability was observed less consistently for Spanish than during early in-person voting. In four locations (one each in Carlsbad, Gallup, Santa Fe, and Taos), observers only saw English language materials (in 3.6% of total locations). One observer in Gallup reported that both English and Spanish instructions were absent.

English and Spanish information was posted in 86% of observed locations. Other Native languages were observed alongside Spanish in the following locations, comprising 2.7% of all locations: One location in Albuquerque was observed to have posted information in English, Spanish, Navajo, Keres, Tewa, and Vietnamese languages. Another, also in Albuquerque, had information in English, Spanish, Navajo, Zuni, and Ute. One location in Las Cruces had information in English, Spanish, Navajo, Zuni, Ute, and Keres.

Midday Report

The midday report, which observers are asked to submit right at 12:30 pm before their lunch break, is an important indicator assessing how the voting location has been operating at around the half day mark. Observers were asked three questions to understand whether any issues arose throughout the day (Questions 32 and 33 on the checklist). These include the following:

- Sufficient staff and equipment as of 12:30 pm
- No significant equipment malfunctions as of 12:30 pm

• Sufficient Staff and Equipment

Sufficient staff and equipment are critical to ensure that the voting process is smooth, orderly, and efficient. Overall, most voting locations reported that there were indeed sufficient staff and equipment. In 106 locations, observers reported that there was sufficient staff and equipment as of 12:30pm. However, in a total of five locations (one each in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Silver City, and Taos), ONME observers felt this to not be the case.

The issues observed were clarified as follows:

Alamogordo: According to our observer, the line started getting a bit out of hand and the poll worker was managing the line, but newcomers were piling in and some skipped the line to ask questions. At some points, there were more than 15 people in line.

Albuquerque: There were a lot of first-time voters relying on only 1-2 computers, taking about 2-3 per person with a line of 60. The observer further noted that there were only about 5 poll workers at the polling location.

Las Cruces: The entrance to the voting site was on one side of a school, leading to confusion and complaints by prospective voters who were having difficulty finding the location. Election officials eventually added signage

to make the location more visible, additionally posting a poll worker outside.

Silver City : According to our observer, the voting center could have used 1 or 2 more electronic pollbooks and ballot printers. Over 22 different ballots were being used in the county, and since all polling locations in Silver City were convenience centers where anyone in the county could vote, this led to this location having a line that was approximately 50 people long due to the need to print ballots on demand. There were plenty of voting stations and no line was observed to be longer than 5 at the tabulator.

Taos: An observer flagged that there was only one staff member, although this person was judged to have effectively managed the polling location. As we have mentioned throughout this report, ONME recommends that at least two election workers are present, regardless of the size of the voting location, to ensure the safety of election officials and that ballots are handled with oversight.

• No Significant Equipment Malfunctions

Equipment malfunctions, depending on the severity, can also critically impact voting. Observers were therefore asked whether their voting location experienced (or did not experience) any significant equipment malfunctions.

Overall, similarly to the question regarding sufficient staffing, the incidents of significant equipment malfunctions were isolated in nature.

One location each in Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe reported issues. As the description of the observers show, the assessment of the severity of the equipment malfunction differs. While the Carlsbad observer, for example, flagged two malfunctions that were promptly addressed, the other counties had, at the time of this report, not been able to fix the issues.

ONME observers noted the following equipment issues on Election Day:

Albuquerque: Tech issues prevented same day registration due to wifi/reception in several instances. Voters were offered provisional ballots in these cases and only one voter had declined a provisional ballot by midday. This voter indicated that they would return later that day to try again.

Carlsbad: A printer malfunctioned but the judge fixed it promptly. A computer glitched and again the judge fixed it immediately.

Las Cruces: The printer for sample ballots could not print. No PC Tech had arrived to repair it by the time the midday report had been filed.

Santa Fe: A ballot was stuck in the printer, so 1 of 3 stations closed. The IT department was called and was on the way when the midday report was filed. The jam happened around 11:55 am.

Voting Process

• Voter Check-in

The voter check-in procedure is critical as it serves as the essential gatekeeping mechanism to ensure the integrity of the election. It verifies the identity and eligibility of each person presenting to vote, confirming they are registered in the correct precinct and preventing duplicate voting.

We asked ONME observers whether they were able to observe the following (Questions 35-38 on the checklist):

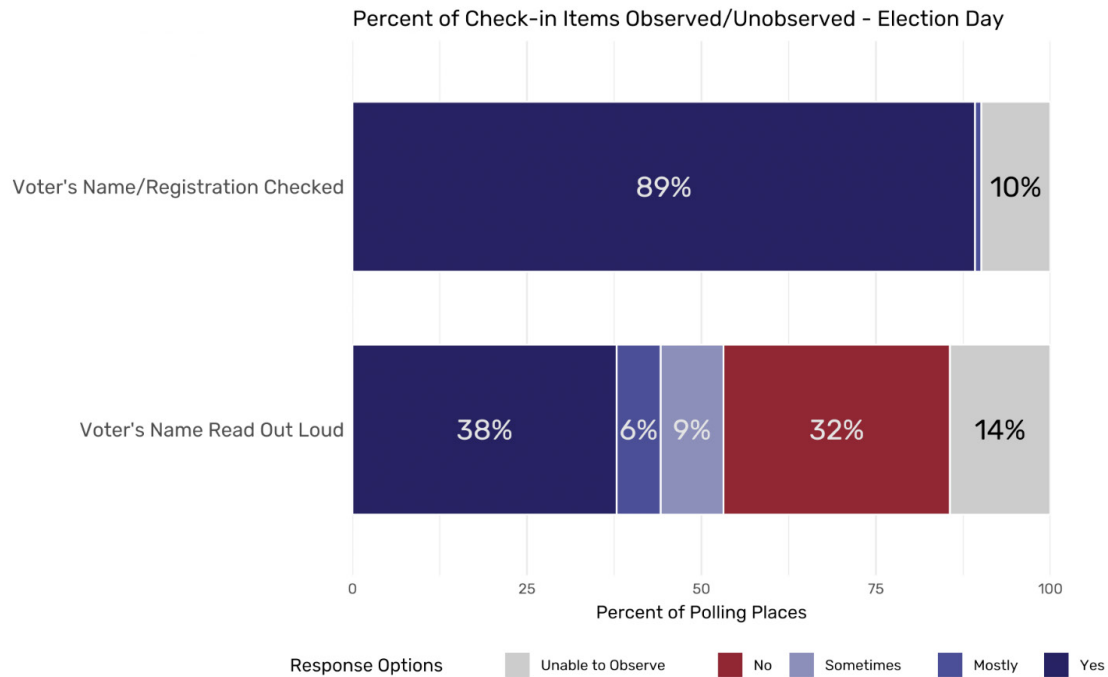
- Voters' names and registration were checked on the electronic pollbook/voter list
- Voters' names were read out loud
- Voters were asked for photo ID appropriately (i.e., first-time or provisional voters)
- Voters were asked for photo ID inappropriately (i.e., when already registered, eligible voters)

In total, four questions were asked. For all items, except the question on asking for voter ID inappropriately, every observer was able to respond "Yes (meaning 100% of the time)," "Mostly (more than half the time)," "Sometimes (less than half the time)," and "No."

The graph shows some variation between the early in-person voting observations and the Election Day observations. For example, while the early in-person voting observations reported that, in 100% of locations, a

voter's name and registration were checked on a voter list or electronic pollbook, only 89% of observers during Election Day reported seeing this. 10% of observers noted this was unobservable. 1% of locations (specifically, one location in Gallup) reported that this happened mostly.

On election day, more observers, as compared to early in-person voting, were able to observe poll workers reading voters' names out loud every time, in 38% of locations (compared to 24% in early in-person). Poll workers did this mostly in 6% of locations, and sometimes in 9% of locations. Almost one third of locations (32%) did not read voters' names out loud and, in 14.4% locations, observers were unable to observe whether this happened or not. We recommend, to ensure that voters are correctly and efficiently identified, that every location read voters' names out loud during check-in.



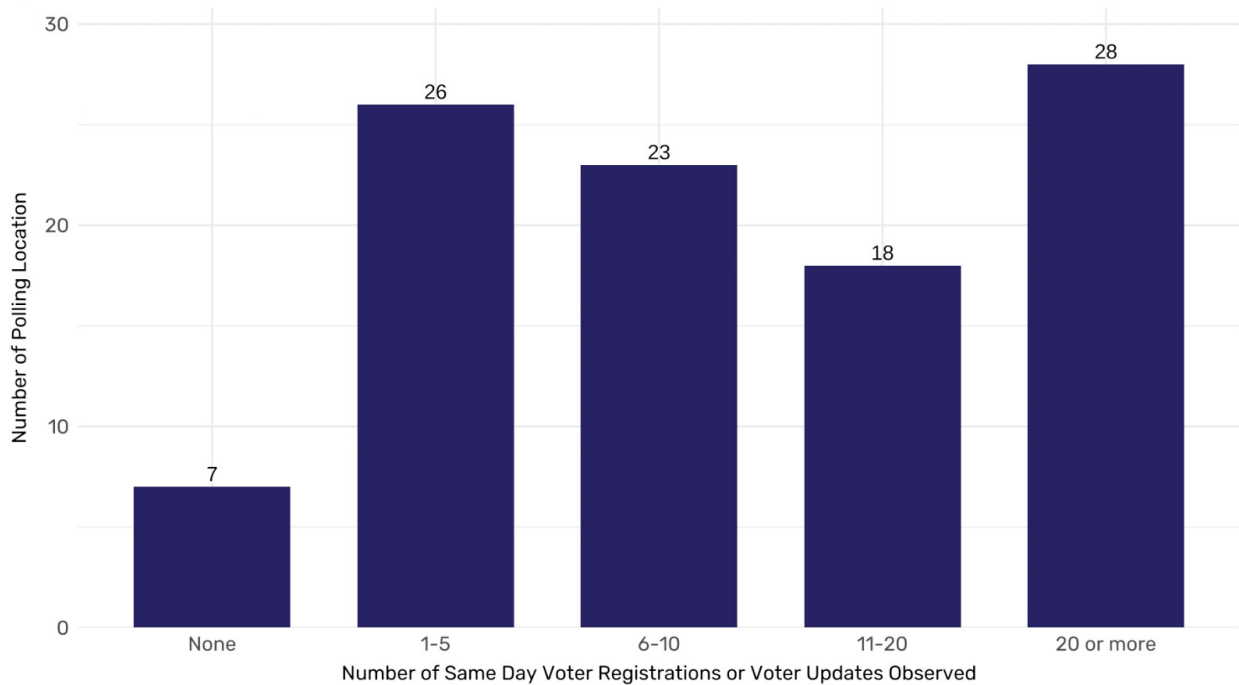
• Same Day Registration

ONME observers were also asked questions on the volume and procedures of same-day registration. In total, ONME observers were asked four questions on the following content (Questions 39-42 on the checklist):

- The number of people asking for same-day registration or updates
- Same-day registrants signed an affidavit
- Same-day registrants were asked for photo ID and proof of residence
- The ballot types given to those requesting same-day registration

The graph below shows the polling locations where ONME observers responded to the questions about same day registration and voter updates. The responses ranged from none (as in, no person asking for same day registration was observed), to 1-5, 6-10, 11-20, or 20 or more people. Overall, compared to Early In-Person Voting, the number of locations where same day registration was observed was much higher on Election Day. In seven locations, no same day registration was observed. In 26 locations, between 1-5 people requesting same day registration were observed. 6-10 people were observed in 23 locations. 11-20 were observed in 18 locations. 20 or more same day registrations were observed in 28 locations. Finally, nine observers reported being unable to observe.

Number of Same Day Registrations or Updates Observed - Election Day



The graphs shows an estimate of the people who requested same day registrations or voter updates that were observed in each polling location. The share ranged from none, 1-5 people, 6-10 people, 11-20, 20 or more.

Same day registration and voter updates were observed in every polling location where observers were present, to varying degrees. Larger volumes were, as expected, observed in larger cities, including Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.

Importantly, people requesting same-day registration or who request updates to their voter registration information need to sign an affidavit saying that they have not already voted.

The table shows the number of locations where the signing of an affidavit was observed, with responses ranging from 100% of the time (yes), mostly or most of the time, sometimes (clarified to mean less than half of the time), or never. In a few locations, observers were unable to observe this.

As the table shows, overall, those seeking same day registrations were consistently asked to sign an affidavit in most locations that were observed (where voters with updates or same day registration requests were observed). This was the case in all three locations in Alamogordo, 18 Albuquerque locations, one location in Carlsbad, one in Clayton, five in Farmington, five in Gallup, nine in Las Cruces, and nine in Santa Fe. In another five locations (three in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, and one in Gallup), observers were able to see voters being asked “mostly” to sign an affidavit. In two locations, one in Albuquerque and one in Carlsbad, ONME observers saw the affidavit signing sometimes. Finally, observers in a total of 29 locations (ten in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, five in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, ten in Santa Fe, and two in Taos) noted that those seeking same day registration never signed an affidavit.

Number of Polling Places in Which Same Day Registrants Were Asked to Sign an Affidavit - Election Day	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos
Yes	3	18	1	1	5	5	9	0	9	0	0
Mostly	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sometimes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	0	10	0	0	1	0	5	1	10	0	2
Unable to Observe	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	2	0

In addition to the question on whether they were able to observe voters being asked to sign an affidavit, ONME observers were asked if they observed voters being asked for identification and proof of residence. Although neither is a requirement for previously registered voters, it is a requirement for those trying to complete a voter registration.

Finally, ONME observers were asked what types of ballots were provided to voters who had requested same-day registration. It should be noted that individuals should be given a regular ballot after they successfully complete the same-day registration process.

Ballots Given to Voters Requesting Same Day Registration on Election Day	Alamogordo	Albuquerque	Carlsbad	Clayton	Farmington	Gallup	Las Cruces	Las Vegas	Santa Fe	Silver City	Taos
Only regular	1	21	3	1	6	5	15	1	16	2	0
Both	2	11	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	2
Only provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

As the table shows, people in the majority of locations (71 locations) that requested same day registration were given a regular ballot. In a total of 23 locations, observers saw both regular and provisional ballots being handed out. Finally, in only one location in Santa Fe did observers see only provisional ballots being handed out.

• Resolving Voter Issues

Every polling location encounters situations throughout Election Day that require officials to solve problems related to voters, ballots, and equipment. Because these moments directly affect one's ability to vote, it is critical that officials follow the correct procedures and issues are resolved promptly and effectively. Following these rules is necessary to both protect the rights of every voter and maintain trust in the election process.

ONME observers were asked about the following voting issues (Questions 43-50 on the checklist):

- Voters who were turned away because they were registered in a different county
- Voters showing up in person to vote who were turned away erroneously due to a past felony conviction
- Voters who were turned away without being given the chance to vote via a provisional ballot
- Voters asking for a replacement ballot receiving one
- Spoiled ballots were clearly labeled and retained separately
- Voters asking for a provisional ballot received instructions
- Provisional ballots were clearly labeled and retained separately
- Equipment malfunctions

1. Voters Who Were Turned Away

A larger share of observers reported voters being turned away because they were registered in a different county than for any other reason. Observers saw voters being turned away due to being registered in another

county in a total of 20 locations observed: 14 locations in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, two in Farmington, one in Las Cruces, and two in Taos.

One observer in Farmington indicated that voters were turned away because they were registered in a different county and were not given information on where they should vote. One observer each in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe were unable to observe, and the remaining observers all responded that voters were given information on where to vote instead.

No observer reported any voters being erroneously turned away because of a prior felony conviction.

Similarly, we were interested in learning if any voters who were turned away were not given the opportunity to vote using a provisional ballot. In the majority of observed locations (84 locations), voters were given the opportunity to vote using a provisional ballot. In seven total locations, between 1-5 prospective voters were seen to be turned away without being given an opportunity to vote. This included one location in Alamogordo, three in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, one in Gallup, and one in Santa Fe.

2. Spoiled Ballots

Observers were also asked if they:

- Saw a voter asking for a replacement for a spoiled ballot
- If spoiled ballots were clearly labeled and retained separately

All observers observed that either there were no such voters at the locations they were observing, that they were unable to observe this part of the process, or that every single voter they observed that asked for a replacement for their spoiled ballot was able to receive one.

For every spoiled ballot, every observer who was able to observe this process noted that it was clearly labeled and retained separately, except for one observer in Santa Fe. This observer observed that election judges mostly clearly labeled and retained spoiled ballots, meaning more than half the time spoiled ballots were clearly labeled and separately retained.

3. Provisional Ballots

Similarly, observers were asked if:

- Voters using provisional ballots received written instructions
- Provisional ballots were clearly identifiable and retained separately

All observers noted that they were either unable to observe this part of the process, that no provisional ballots were used, or that, in the cases they were used, voters mostly received written instructions. In one location in Albuquerque and another in Carlsbad, observers noted this happened most of the time. In another Albuquerque location, this only occurred less than half the time.

For a follow-up of locations where voters were observed to have voted with provisional ballots, all observers, except for one location in Carlsbad, noted that these ballots were clearly identified and retained separately. The Carlsbad observer indicated that provisional ballots were never retained separately.

4. Equipment Malfunctions

Even the most thoroughly tested equipment can malfunction. We therefore asked observers what types of equipment malfunctions they observed throughout the day and to elaborate further on the issues they observed.

Equipment malfunctions were observed in 23 locations (or 20.7% of total locations) across Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Farmington, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, and Santa Fe. Issues that were reported were tabulator-related issues (13 times), copy machine or printer-related issues (19 times), pollbook-related issues (three times), Internet router and WiFi-related issues (five times), computer-related issues (three times), and others.

• Electronic Vote Tabulators

ONME observers were asked whether all voters with a regular ballot placed their voted ballots in an electronic

vote tabulator before exiting the voting location (Question 51 on the checklist). Every observer responded affirmatively to this question.

- **Language Assistance**

ONME observers were asked to note whether voters requested ballots in languages other than English, and how many voters requested language assistance such as translation or interpretation, in a non-English language (Questions 58-59 on the checklist).

A limited number of locations observed voters requesting ballots in languages other than English. Voters made such requests in two locations in Albuquerque, one in Las Cruces, and two in Santa Fe. The number of voters who made these requests varied by location as well. Only one voter each made a request for a ballot in other languages in one location in Las Cruces and two locations in Santa Fe. One location in Albuquerque observed eight voters requesting a ballot, and another location in Albuquerque observed ten. All requests were for ballots in Spanish. None of these voter requests were denied.

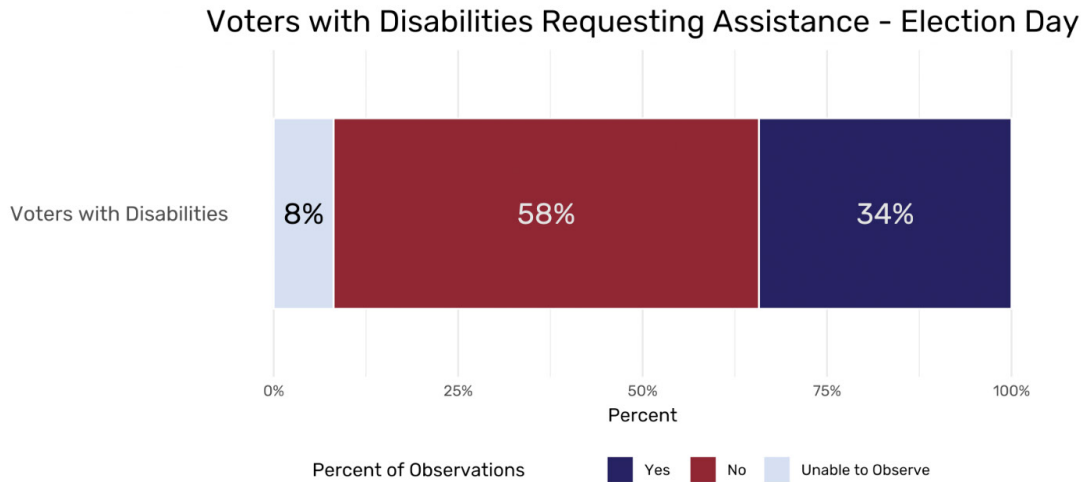
Observers were similarly asked if any voters requested translator or interpreter assistance in non-English languages, such as verbal translation of the ballot. A small number of voters were observed to request translation or interpretation assistance across a few locations. One voter was observed requesting this kind of language assistance in one location each in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Clayton. Two voters requested translation or interpretation assistance in one location each in Albuquerque and Gallup, and in two locations in Farmington.

The observed requests for translator or interpreter assistance were made for Diné, Spanish, and other languages. Requests for translation or interpretation assistance in Diné were made in one location each in Farmington and Gallup. Requests for Spanish were made in one location each in Albuquerque, Clayton, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. Requests for both Spanish and Diné were made in Farmington only. A request for translation or interpretation assistance in another language was made in one location in Bernalillo. All requests where voters made requests for both Spanish and Diné were granted. The observer for this location clarified the observation as follows: *“[The initial request was denied for] an older Navajo prospective voter who spoke poor English. The election judge had to chase them down in the building after it was determined they were registered to vote in [a different county]. The prospective voter did not initially want to take the time to change their registration. Once back in the room, the presiding judge learned they spoke Navajo. No interpreter was available. The president judge asked the county worker if they spoke Navajo and they agreed to translate for the prospective voter. They got their registration changed in the system and they were able to vote after about 3/4 of an hour.”*

• Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

Observers observed a varying number of voters with disabilities who requested assistance on Election Day, seeking answers to questions regarding whether voters with disabilities requested assistance to vote, whether voters who requested an assistant were allowed to have the assistant of their choosing accompany them to vote, and whether the assistants to the voters with disabilities were required to sign the signature roster or electronic pollbook alongside the name of the voter (Questions 60-62 on the checklist).

In total, voters with disabilities who requested assistance were observed in one third of observed locations (34% of all locations or 38 locations). This included three locations in Alamogordo (which were all Alamogordo locations), 15 in Albuquerque, two in Carlsbad, one in Clayton, three in Farmington, five in Las Cruces, six in Santa Fe, and two in Silver City.



The number of such voters ranged from one to 30 voters. One voter asking for assistance was observed in one location in Alamogordo, two locations in Albuquerque, two in Carlsbad, one in Clayton, one in Farmington, and one in Las Cruces. 30 voters seeking assistance were observed in one location in Albuquerque.

Observers were further asked whether voters who requested an assistant were allowed to have the assistant of their choosing accompany them to vote. Most of these requests were granted or were unobservable to observers. However, in one location in Albuquerque and one in Las Cruces, observers reported that they were not allowed. The observer in Albuquerque clarified as follows:

“A visually impaired [prospective voter] came in to vote and the machine that is supposed to help [them] independently cast [their] vote was archaic and the poll workers weren’t trained on it to help [them], so in the end I believe [they] had the [assistant] that was with [them] help [them] cast [their] vote, but [they] wanted to be autonomous and in the end had to have help. There was another visually impaired person that came in, but [they] opted to just have the person with [them] read the ballot to [them] instead of trying to mess with the machine again. I personally used the same machine to cast my vote and, as someone who is not visually impaired, had a hard time understanding what was going on with the sound and screen.”²²

Finally, as set out in New Mexico election law, assistants of people with disabilities must sign the signature roster or electronic pollbook alongside the name of the voter. The observations here were very mixed – in total, observers in 15 locations were able to confirm that assistants signed the signature roster or electronic pollbooks. This included two locations in Alamogordo, six in Albuquerque, two in Carlsbad, one in Farmington, and four in Las Cruces. However, observers were unable to observe this activity in twelve locations. This included one location in Alamogordo, six in Albuquerque, one in Las Cruces, two in Santa Fe, and two in Silver City. Finally, in eleven locations, observers noted that assistants were not made to sign the roster or pollbook (three in Albuquerque, one in Clayton, two in Farmington, four in Santa Fe, and one in Taos).

²² The brackets in the quote are used to exclude the gender of the prospective voter and their assistants.

• **Challenges of Voter Eligibility**

Challengers in a polling place can question the eligibility of voters to ensure the integrity of the election process. ONME observers were asked to look out for instances in which an individual’s eligibility to vote was challenged, including the possibility of a variety of potential outcomes should a challenge be tendered (Questions 63 - 66 on the checklist). No challenges to voter eligibility were observed in any voting locations where ONME observers were present on Election Day.

• **Peace Officers and Law Enforcement**

Election judges may ask a peace officer to help maintain order at a voting location. ONME observers were asked to look out for instances in which either an election judge requested officers of the peace to help maintain order at the voting location, or officers of the peace entered the voting location to observe the election (Questions 67-68 on the checklist).

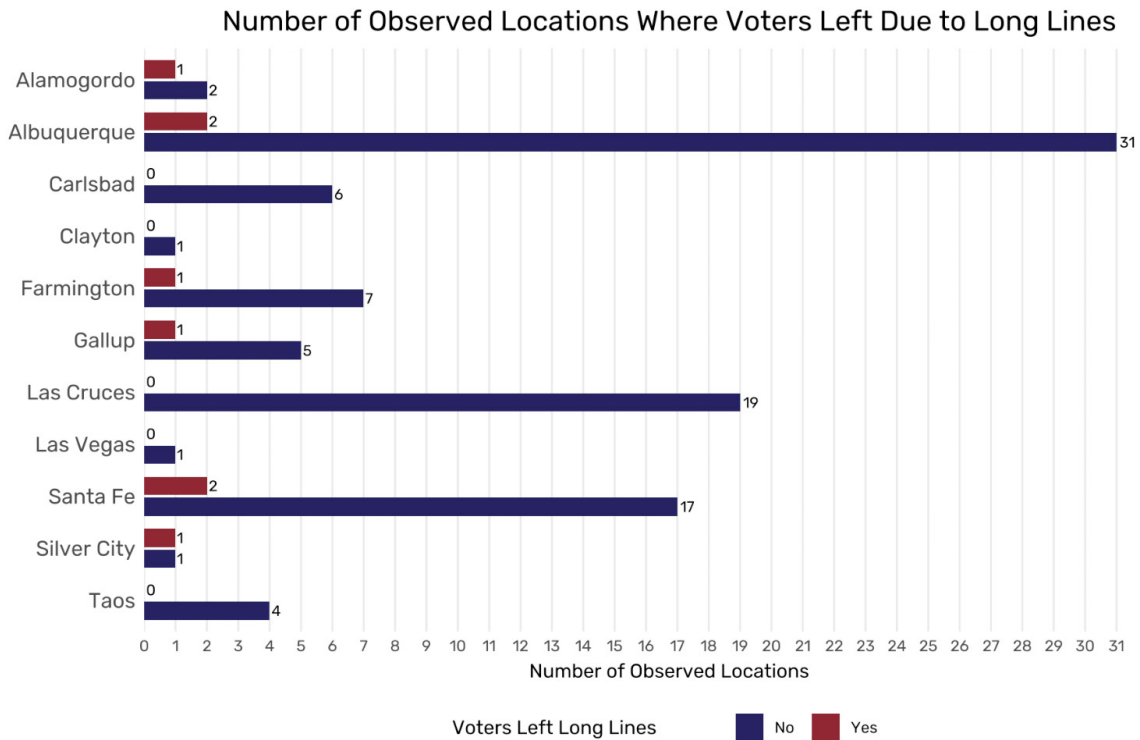
No peace officers were reported to have been present to maintain order at any of the locations on the days when ONME observers were present. However, one observer in Albuquerque reported the presence of law enforcement, clarifying that the police were called for a person who was having a medical episode outside of the polling location. The person decided to leave on their own accord.

Observers were also asked if any peace officers (including state police officers or local police officers) entered the voting location during the day to observe the election. Only one observer, in Albuquerque, reported this activity in relation to peace officers.

• **Staffing, Supplies, and Wait Times**

Maintaining sufficient staff and supplies is critical to ensuring that wait times are not excessive and that voting is a smooth, easy process. Questions 69-72 on the checklist asked ONME observers to look out for several possible indications of issues with staffing, supplies or voter wait times, as explored below.

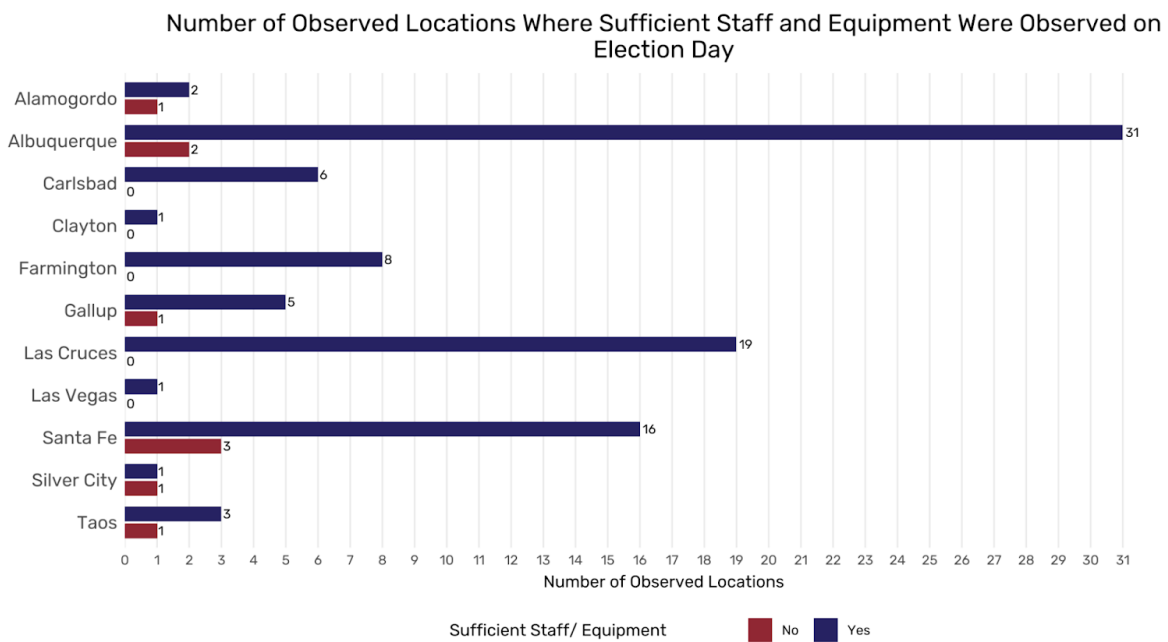
Voters who left the line due to long lines were only observed in a small number of locations. As the graph shows, this was the case in only one location in Alamogordo, two in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, one in Gallup, two in Santa Fe, and one in Silver City.



ONME observers were asked to record whether the presiding judge suspended the voter identification requirements at any time during the day because the line for same day voter registration was too long. No instances of identification requirements being suspended due to long lines for voter registration were reported at locations where our observers were present.

Two observers, one in Las Cruces and in Las Vegas, observed their voting location running out of essential materials at some point in the day. The Las Cruces observer explained that, at one point, their location had run out of voter registration cards given to people who voted but had address changes to make later. This observer also noted that more registration cards were delivered. The Las Cruces observer made a similar observation. Their location ran out of address change forms, paper clips, and pens. This observer reported that the staff at the location ordered more to be brought to the location.

Finally, observers were asked if, in their opinion, the voting location had enough staff and equipment to ensure that the voting process ran smoothly all day. Again, in most observed locations, ONME observers felt that the locations had sufficient staff and equipment. Observers in one location in Alamogordo, two in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, three in Santa Fe, one in Silver City, and one in Taos felt that there were not sufficient staff and equipment.



Close of Polls

When polls close, election judges and poll workers, as in all other steps during voting location operations, complete procedures to ensure that guidelines, rules, and laws are followed. The closing of the polls was observed in almost all locations at which our observers were stationed (95.9%), except for two locations in Albuquerque and two in Las Cruces. The information below is only from the locations where observers were able to observe the closure. Questions 75-82 on the checklist address this phase of election activities.

Most ONME observers observed election judges verbally announcing the closures of their location. As the graph shows, the number of polling locations where this was observed to not be the case (marked in red) are far fewer than locations where this was observed (marked in blue). Locations where verbal announcements were not made included three locations in Albuquerque, one in Farmington, three in Gallup, two in Las Cruces, two in Santa Fe, and one in Silver City.

Verbal Announcement During Closing Procedures - Election Day

Each panel shows the number of polling places observed within each municipality where an election judge verbally announced the close of polls



19.4% of all locations observed also had lines at the time of closure on Election Day. Albuquerque had the largest number of locations with lines at the time of closure (ten locations). One location each in Farmington, Gallup, and Silver City also had lines at the time of closing. Five locations in Santa Fe had lines as well.

For every location where lines were observed at closing, all voters who were in line before the polls closed were allowed to vote. No observer reported any individuals who arrived after polls closed being allowed to vote, which is in line with state statute.

98% of locations closed on time. The remaining 2% of locations closed late (two locations, both in Albuquerque).

The number of election officials or precinct board members present during closing ranged from 1 to 16, with an average of around eight at the locations at which our observers were present for this phase of operations. Two locations, one each in Las Cruces and Taos, observed only one person present. Regardless of voting location size, ONME recommends that every location has at least two people present to ensure that ballots are never handled without oversight.²³

Finally, during closing, the precinct board is expected to complete and sign a certificate documenting the closing of the voting location as soon as the polls close. This was less consistently observable across all municipalities, with only 56% of observers reporting seeing this process completed (52 out of 93 locations). Observers being unable to observe the completion of this certificate does not necessarily indicate it was not done, but that the process was not readily evident in all locations. This was the case in 32% of locations (or 30 locations). As noted elsewhere in the report, it is normal to expect that it may be difficult for observers to see all administrative processes taking place, particularly as the practice of nonpartisan election observation is relatively new in New Mexico. As a measure of transparency, ONME recommends that poll workers be trained to ensure that observers are able to clearly see the processes they are completing during the close of polls, including filling out the certificate documenting closing procedures.

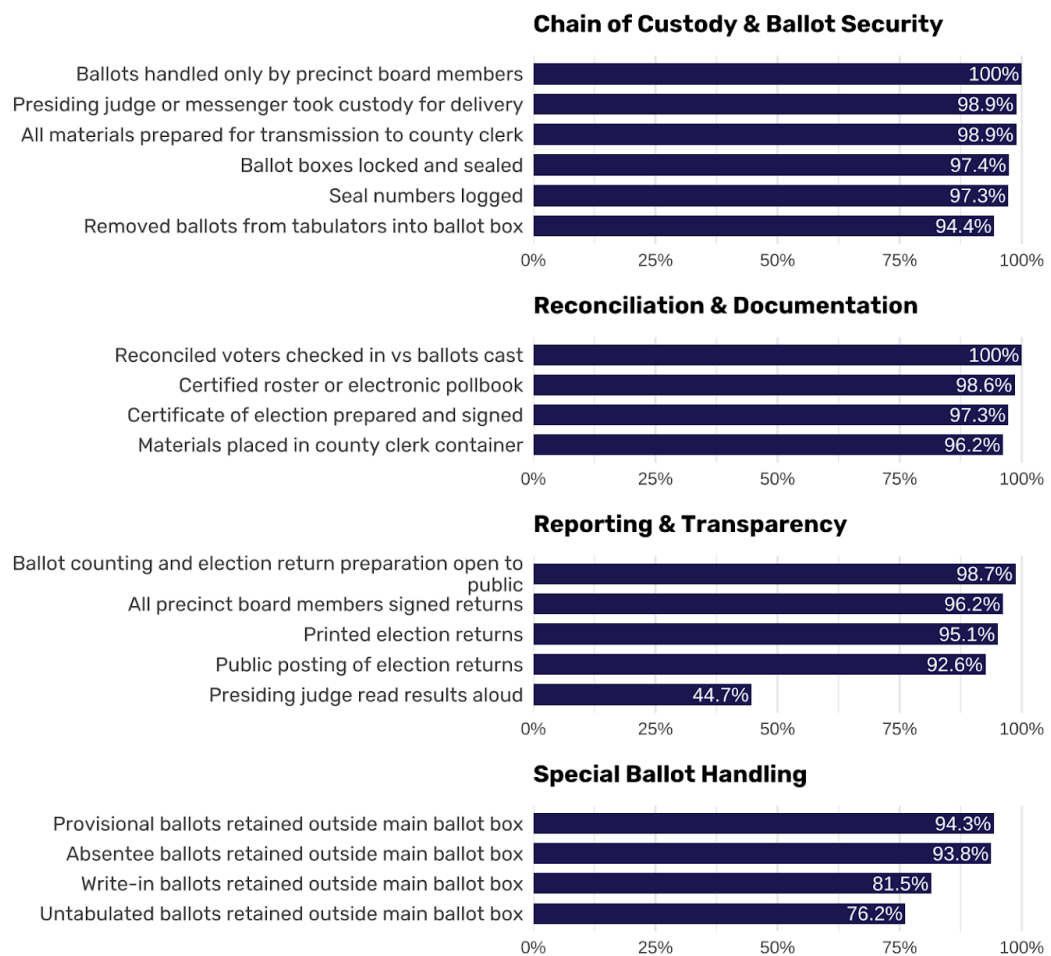
²³ The United States Electoral Assistance Commission recommends that election officials complete all tasks in teams of at least two as an election security best practice. https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-security-preparedness#_Election_Security_Resources

Ballot Counting and Preparation of Returns

Following proper closing procedures and ballot handling are critical steps to ensure that elections are conducted transparently and evoke trust. Poll workers make sure the number of ballots matches the number of people who were checked in, count votes, and prepare official results. Results are posted publicly, and during regular location elections all ballots and records are sealed for return to the county. Questions 83-107 on the checklist address this phase of election day operations at polling places.

Overall, ballots were tabulated at the polling location in most observed locations (88% of locations or 88 locations). In 6% of locations (or six locations), observers were unable to observe. This included two locations in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, two in Las Cruces, and one in Santa Fe. In the remaining 6% of locations, observers noted that the ballots were not tabulated at the polling location. This included two locations in Albuquerque, one location in Farmington, one in Las Cruces, one in Santa Fe, and one in Taos. In the 88 locations where observers indicated that ballots were tabulated at the polling location, observers were also asked whether ballots were transported to a central location after tabulation. All observers either responded affirmatively or indicated that they were unable to observe. None of the observers responding to this question flagged anything concerning, with all who provided explanations mentioning that ballots were either put in tagged boxes, locked boxes, and transported to be counted elsewhere.

Ballot Closing and Reconciliation Procedures Followed by Observed Locations - Election Day



• Chain of Custody & Ballot Security

Observers reported very high compliance with ballot-security procedures. Only precinct board members handled ballots during closing and reconciliation in 100% of locations. Officials consistently secured materials: ballots were removed from tabulators and placed into ballot boxes in 94.4% of locations, ballot boxes were locked and sealed in 97.4% of observed locations, and seal numbers were logged in 97.3%. Chain of custody at the end of the night was also highly consistent, with 98.9% of observers reporting that the presiding judge or designated messenger took possession of the sealed materials for delivery to the county clerk, and 98.9% seeing officials prepare all materials for transport.

• Reconciliation & Documentation

Observers saw strong adherence to documentation and reconciliation practices across observed locations. Precinct boards certified rosters or pollbooks in 98.6% of locations, reconciled voters checked in against ballots cast in 100%,²⁴ and prepared and signed a certificate of election in 97.3% of observed locations. In 96.2% of locations observed, ONME observers reported that election officials placed the signature roster or a printout from the electronic pollbook, the other copy of the printed election returns from the precinct tabulator(s), and the tabulators' removable storage drives in a container for the county clerk. 97% of observed locations also placed a copy of the checklist of registered voters for the location and a copy of the printed election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) in an envelope for the Secretary of State.

• Reporting & Transparency

Reporting procedures were completed consistently across the state. 95.1% of observed locations printed election returns, with 96.2% reporting all precinct judges signed the returns. In 92.6% of locations, observers saw election officials post a public copy of the printed election returns outside the voting location, providing transparency to local voters and the public.

Another measure of transparency is allowing the ballot counting and election return preparations to be open to the public. Similarly to the other measures, observers who were able to observe this part of the process reported high compliance, with 98.7% of locations allowing the public to watch.

One item that was less consistently observed was whether presiding judges read the results aloud – observers in only 44.7% of locations were able to see this process. Presiding judges did not read the results aloud in at least one location in each of the municipalities we observed, which totaled 42 locations.

• Handling of Atypical Ballots

Handling of atypical ballots, such as provisional, spoiled and absentee ballots, when observed, were handled correctly. Officials properly retained provisional ballots outside the main ballot box in 94.3% of cases where provisional ballots were present. Absentee ballots were retained in the proper location at 93.8% of observed locations. Ballots with write-in candidates were also observed to have been retained outside the main ballot box in 81.5% of locations. Similarly, observers noted in locations where one or more paper ballots could not be read by the tabulator that officials placed those ballots in separate envelopes outside the ballot box as required 76.2% of the time. In the remaining 23.8% of instances, observers noted that this did not happen.

²⁴ Observers were also asked whether any discrepancies were identified in the number of votes cast and the number of ballots. Inconsistencies were observed in multiple locations, including six in Albuquerque, one in Carlsbad, one in Farmington, one in Las Cruces, one in Las Vegas, and one in Santa Fe. Therefore, it is especially reassuring to observe that each location compared and reconciled the number of voters checked in with the number of ballots cast.

Other Observers and Their Conduct

• Presence of Other Watchers/Observers

Other election observers, in addition to ONME's nonpartisan election observers, were present in a limited number of locations. ONME observers were asked to report on whether other observers or observers were present at different periods during the day, from opening, throughout the day and at closing (Questions 108-109 on the checklist).

At the opening of the polls, none of the observers reported any other observers or observers, aside from themselves, present at their locations.

During the voting process, the following observers were seen by ONME observers:

- Democratic Party observers:
 - Albuquerque (1 person in 1 location)
 - Las Cruces (4 people each in 1 location)
- Republican Party observers:
 - Albuquerque (1 person each in 10 locations)
 - Las Cruces (4 people each in 1 location)
- Media or Journalists:
 - Alamogordo (1 person in 1 location)
 - Albuquerque (1 person in 1 location)
- Other members of the public
 - Alamogordo (1 person in 1 location)
 - Albuquerque (1 person each in 4 locations)
- Nonpartisan observers, monitors, or observers
 - Albuquerque (9 locations, including the New Mexico Department of Justice (multiple locations) and a lawyer working for the state²⁵)

Similarly, during closing, observers reported the presence of other observers in Albuquerque, only:

- Democratic Party observers:
 - 1 person in 1 location
- Republican Party observers:
 - 1 person each in 3 locations
- Media or Journalists:
 - 3 people in 1 location
- Other members of the public
 - 1 person in 1 location
- Nonpartisan observers, monitors, or observers
 - 2 locations, including the New Mexico Department of Justice and a lawyer from the District Attorney's office

• Conduct of Other Observers

ONME observers were asked to note any problematic behavior of other observers present in the polling place (Questions 111-115 on the checklist). Our observers kept an eye out for instances of harassment, pressure or coercion of election officials or violence or intimidation in the polling place. Observers were trained to recognize and report whether electioneering had taken place within 100 feet of the voting location and whether there had been any disruption of the voting process. In addition, we sought to learn more from observers regarding whether there were any attempts to interfere in, influence or manipulate the election or voting process in the locations during the period they observed.

Overall, conduct in polling locations was orderly and calm. However, in a limited number of locations, harassment, disruptions, electioneering, and interference or manipulation were observed.

At least one of these incidents was observed in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, Santa Fe,

²⁵ For this question, observers were not asked how many nonpartisan observers, monitors, or observers they saw at their location, but only whether they saw any.

Silver City, and Taos. Specifically, harassment was observed in Alamogordo and Farmington, electioneering was observed in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Silver City, and Taos, disruptions were observed in Farmington and Santa Fe, and attempts at interference, influence, or manipulation were observed in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Each of the following is explained in more detail in the appropriate subsections.

1. Harassment

Harassment, as mentioned above, was observed in Alamogordo and Farmington. In both incidents, ONME observers were involved – against their will – by the actions of others.

Alamogordo: A prospective voter attempted to speak to an ONME observer in Alamogordo to explain water rights. The presiding judge intervened and the voter became angry. Despite the presiding judge's efforts to de-escalate the situation, the prospective voter eventually left without voting. The presiding judge submitted their ballot as a blank ballot.

Violence/Intimidation

No incidents of violence or intimidation were reported.

2. Disruptions

Two disruptions to the voting process were observed, both related to internet connectivity issues. Observers in both Farmington and Santa Fe reported that the WiFi was down for some period of time during their observations. The Farmington observer reported that the WiFi needed to be updated twice after losing connection with the county clerk's office, and the Santa Fe observer reported that the loss of WiFi stopped voting for about ten minutes. ONME recommends that all counties, including San Juan and Santa Fe, prepare detailed contingency plans for infrastructure and other issues during elections and have secure backup internet sources to dispatch where needed.

3. Electioneering

Electioneering within 100 feet of the polling location entrance is prohibited by law. Unlawful electioneering was by far the most reported form of negative conduct by other actors that was flagged by ONME observers. Electioneering was observed in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Silver City, and Taos.

Albuquerque: Across the locations, the most common issue was that people were campaigning too closely to the voting locations observed. One observer reported that at the edge of the parking lot it looked as if there were at least a couple of campaigners waving signs for different political parties.

Another observer noted that one person engaged in campaigning too close to the polling place and reported that the presiding judge instructed them to move to an appropriate distance.

The third observer, similarly to the two previously mentioned observers, saw several candidate representatives or advocates with signs that were too close to the polling location. At this voting location, the presiding judge instructed them to move slightly back. After initially disputing the distance measurement, the presiding judge eventually led them to comply.

Santa Fe: A Santa Fe observer reported seeing people representing candidates trying to enter the voting location. The presiding judge informed them that they were not allowed to do so and to stay 100 feet away from the entrance. The people immediately complied and remained at an appropriate distance for the remaining voting hours.

Silver City: A Silver City observer who observed an incident of electioneering reportedly saw a voter with a political T-shirt entering the voting location. The judge required the voter to remove the T-shirt, which they did after which they voted.

Taos: A Taos observer reported two incidents of electioneering, including multiple children wearing a political candidate's shirt entering the voting location with their guardian who had come to vote. The observer also reported people holding signs for another candidate too close to the building (within the 100 feet perimeter).

4. Interference/Manipulation

Two incidents of interference or manipulation were reported, one in Albuquerque and one in Las Cruces.

Albuquerque: An observer reported that a representative or advocate for one of the candidates was at the voting location early in the morning and being pushy, asking voters who they had voted for. One or two voters complained to the presiding judge, telling them that they felt intimidated. The presiding judge talked to the representative or advocate, who then threatened to report the presiding judge through the hotline. The situation de-escalated and no further action was necessary or taken.

An observer reported a spouse of one of the election workers hovering behind the election workers while they were counting and certifying ballots and other election documents. This observer further observed, after documents were being signed, that the judge and the registrar went into the polling room alone with a small batch of ballots away from anyone else. The observer, after inquiring what was going on, was only told that the receipts on the table were from the tabulator but were not told anything else. While the judge and registrar were in the other room, the observer observed the spouses of one of the election workers *“rummaging through a black binder that had election documents [in]them.”* The observer was not able to tell what the binder contained but observed election insignia and handwriting on the documents.

Post-Election Process

Absentee Ballot Processing

Highlights of Absentee Ballot Processing

- Observers observed accessibility of the testing venue, environment for ballot processing, ballot receipting/examination, ballot sorting, ballot pre-processing and tabulation, and the conduct of other actors in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. They reported seeing proper protocol followed and did not note any problematic conduct from observers, observers, or election officials. Ballot processing was done in a highly secure and professional manner.

Absentee ballot processing is where absentee ballots are received, processed, tabulated, sealed, and stored by trained election workers at county election offices or designated counting facilities. Processing and tabulation can begin up to two weeks prior to an election (if the county distributed more than ten thousand absentee ballots) or as little as five days prior to an election (if the county distributed more than five thousand ballots). This process concludes whenever all ballots are processed, counted, sealed, and then stored. As a result of these rules, observation can prove challenging as this is a long period of time during which the process can potentially begin and conclude.

Absentee and mail ballots make up a growing share of votes in New Mexico’s elections. ONME observers monitored absentee ballot processing in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe to document how procedures were implemented and whether they were carried out transparently and securely. In particular, observers monitored the accessibility of the tabulation venue, the environment, ballot handling procedures, verification of ballots and voters, tabulation procedures, and the transparency of the process.

Data Collection Overview

ONME observers monitored absentee ballot processing in Bernalillo County on October 27th, Santa Fe County on October 31st, and Doña Ana County on November 3rd. Observers were asked a total of 34 questions, some of which included follow-up questions on the below topic areas:

- Accessibility of the Testing Venue
- Environment for Ballot Processing
- Ballot Receipting/Examination
- Ballot Sorting

- Ballot Pre-Processing and Tabulation
- Conduct of Other Actors

The full list of questions that observers were asked and the response options are in Appendix 5.

Accessibility of the Venue

ONME observers observing absentee ballot processing were asked about the accessibility of the venues where processing took place. Observers were asked whether they were able to see any of the following accessibility features when they arrived at the voting location:

- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired
- A clearly marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked

As in previous electoral processes, ONME observers were asked five questions about these features.

As the map shows, accessibility varied across the three locations where absentee ballot processing was observed. The ONME observers in Albuquerque and Santa Fe were able to observe each of the above-mentioned accessibility features. The Las Cruces observer only noted the accessible parking spots and an obstacle-free path from parking to entrance accessibility features. The observer did note that the Elections Bureau is in the process of moving to a new election warehouse.

Accessibility of Venue (Absentee)	Albuquerque	Las Cruces	Santa Fe	Total locations where item was covered
Accessible parking spots				3
Obstacle-free path from parking to entrance				3
Clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance				2
Wheelchair-accessible main entrance				2
Unlocked wheelchair-accessible entrance				2
Total content items observed by location	5	2	5	

Environment for Ballot Processing

Because the conditions of the ballot processing environment shape what observers can see and how they participate, ONME asked its observers about the location’s setup, accessibility, and number of people present. Observers were asked about the following:

- Space made available for observation
- Number of absent voter election members

- Presence of other observers
- Explanations from staff

Space made available for observation

Every location reported that space was made available to those observing ballot processing.

Number of absent voter election members

The number of absent voter election members varied, ranging from nine to 40. Specifically, the number of members is shown in the table:

Municipality	County	Absent Voter Election Board Members Present
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	40
Las Cruces	Doña Ana	9
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	11

Presence of other observers

No other observers were reported at any of the locations while the ONME observer was present.

Explanations from staff

Both the Bernalillo and Santa Fe observers reported to have received verbal explanations from election staff. The Doña Ana observer reported that they received no verbal explanations or handouts. All observers reported that election staff were available to answer questions about ballot processing and tabulation.

Ballot Receipting and Examination

When absentee ballots are received, ballot processors go through a number of steps to verify that the ballot was cast by a registered voter (i.e., verifying their identity and whether they followed appropriate protocol), and, in cases where issues are observed, that ballots are handled appropriately.

To assess how ballot receipt and examination were conducted, observers were asked specifically whether they observe the following:

- Ballot examination:
 - Consistent scanning
 - Marking ballots as received
 - Verification of ballot signature to the signature of record in the voter database
 - Verification of the last four digits of the social security number
- Rejected ballots:
 - Ballots that were rejected because of mismatched or missing signatures, or mismatched or missing social security numbers
 - Follow up with voters whose ballots were rejected due to errors
 - Follow up with voters whose eligibility was challenged
- Challengers:
 - Presence of any challengers to a voter’s eligibility and handling of challenged ballots
- Record keeping:
 - Absent Voter Election Board recording of all processed ballots

Ballot Examination

While poll workers are examining ballots, they are expected (1) to scan the unique barcode on each official mailing envelope, (2) mark each ballot as received in the Secretary of State’s voter database, (3) verify the ballot envelope signature against the signature of record in the voter database, and (4) verify the last four digits of the voter’s social security number on the official ballot envelope against the voter’s record in the voter database.

Both the Las Cruces and Santa Fe observers responded affirmatively to each of these, meaning that poll workers consistently were following these steps during the period they were observing. The Albuquerque observer

was unable to observe this process, which may only mean that this process did not occur on the day they were present.

Rejected Ballots

No ballots were reportedly rejected due to a mismatched or missing signature or social security number in Albuquerque or Las Cruces during the period our observers were present. The Santa Fe observer reported during the period they were present that one ballot was rejected due to the last four digits of the voter's social security number being mismatched.

Observers were also asked whether election officials contacted voters with missing or mismatched signatures or social security numbers, or individuals whose information was challenged. For this question, observers were also prompted to ask the county clerk, because this process may have been unobservable to them. The Santa Fe observer, who was the only one in this dataset who was able to observe a ballot getting rejected due to a mismatch in a social security number, reported that the voter was not contacted during the period they observed.

Challengers

Observers were also asked whether any political party observers challenged any individual's eligibility to cast an absentee ballot, and how these challenged ballots were handled.

The Las Cruces and Santa Fe observers did not observe any party observers challenging any individual's eligibility, and the Albuquerque observer reported that no political party members were present.

Record keeping

All absentee ballots that are processed also need to be recorded by the Absent Voter Election Board. This includes both verified and unchallenged ballots. All observers reported seeing this record keeping process.

Ballot Sorting

It is important for officials to methodically sort and handle ballots before ballots are pre-processed and tabulated. Observers were asked whether they observed the following:

- Ballot sorting
 - Ballots sorted by ballot style, and whether the sorted ballots were bundled together
- Outer/official mailing envelope procedures
 - Removal of the ballot secrecy envelope from the outer/official mailing envelope, and confirmation that these envelopes were empty
 - Keeping the outer/official mailing envelope
- Ballot oversight
 - Ballots are always handled with oversight of at least two individuals

Ballot Sorting

Observers were asked whether ballots were sorted by ballot style before processing, and whether these same-style ballots were bundled or rubber-banded together. All observers responded affirmatively to these questions.

Outer/official mailing envelope procedures

Absentee ballots are mailed or dropped off at locations with an outer or official mailing envelope. During absentee ballot processing, election officials need to remove the ballot secrecy envelope from this outer or official mailing envelope, confirm that said envelope is empty after removing the inner envelope, and keep the outer or official mailing envelope.

Observations were similarly affirmative as with ballot sorting, with each observer responding that election officials followed proper protocol during the period they observed. The Las Cruces observer reported that they were, however, unable to observe whether the outer or official mailing ballots were kept and not discarded.

Ballot oversight

Ballots were observed to have been handled with oversight from at least two individuals at all times during the period when ONME observers were present, at all three locations.

Ballot Pre-Processing and Tabulation

Ballot pre-processing is the final step before ballots are tabulated. This includes removing ballots from their inner secrecy envelopes and confirming them, retaining the inner secrecy envelopes, identifying any missorted ballots and tracking said missorted ballots, and producing zero reports for electronic vote tabulators into which ballots will be fed during tabulation. During tabulation, some ballots may fail to process due to a myriad of issues, such as ballot conditions, overvotes, and/or blank ballots. These types of ballots require election officials to manually review them to determine voter intent.

To assess the procedures followed or not followed during absentee ballot processing, ONME observers were asked whether they observed the following:

- Pre-processing procedures including:
 - Removing ballots from the inner secrecy envelope, confirming each envelope contained only one ballot in the correct ballot style, and retention of the inner secrecy envelopes
 - Identification of any missorted ballots and production of a report to track said missorted ballots
 - Producing zero reports for all electronic tabulators and verification of zero reports by political party observers if they were present
- Tabulation and post-tabulation procedures:
 - Number of ballots that failed to process
 - Manual review of ballots that failed to process
 - Objection by political party observers
 - Attempt by anyone to alter or manipulate any ballots
 - Securing and storing of tabulated ballots
- Ballot oversight:
 - Ballots are always handled with oversight of at least two individuals

Pre-Processing Procedures

Pre-processing procedures observed by the three observers were reported to have followed proper conduct – observers reported that poll workers removed ballots from their inner secrecy envelopes, that they confirmed each of these only contained one ballot in the correct ballot style, and that the inner secrecy envelopes were retained.

No observers saw any missorted ballots during their observation period.

Only the Santa Fe observer was able to observe that election officials produced zero reports for all electronic vote tabulators but indicated that no political party observers were present to verify the zero reports. The Albuquerque and Las Cruces observers were unable to observe this process.

Tabulation and Post-Tabulation Procedures

During tabulation, observers in Albuquerque and Santa Fe reported that there were ballots which electronic vote tabulators failed to process. The Las Cruces observer saw no such ballots. In total, 198 ballots in Albuquerque and ten in Santa Fe were reported to have failed to process on the day of observation. Both observers reported that the election board manually reviewed all ballots that the electronic vote tabulators failed to process to determine voter intent, and that no objections to the determinations of voter intent were observed.

Observers reported no individuals involved in the tabulation process attempting to alter or manipulate any of the ballots in any way. The Albuquerque observer further explained that they felt the area was very secure, with different layers of security access.

Both the Albuquerque and Santa Fe observers reported that at the end of tabulation, ballots were secured and stored. The Albuquerque observer was unable to observe this process.

Ballot Oversight

Ballots were observed to have been handled with oversight from at least two individuals at all times during the pre-processing and tabulation stage.

Other Observers and Their Conduct

Observers were also asked about the conduct of election workers and other watchers or observers. This included the following:

- Ballot handling of anyone other than an official election worker
- Challenges or objections to the conduct of ballot processing or tabulation by political party observers or other members of the public
- Harassment, influence, or coercion attempts of individuals involved in ballot processing or tabulation process
- Violence or intimidation during ballot processing or tabulation
- Unexpected disruptions to ballot processing or tabulation
- Attempts by unauthorized individuals to gain access to ballot processing or tabulation

Observers did not see any of the above-mentioned conduct.

County Canvass - Certification of Election Results

Highlights of Certification of Results

- Overall, county canvass certifications went smoothly in all locations observed, with no issues being raised, no inconsistencies or discrepancies reported, and no major objections.
- Only one location in Union County reported that one of the mayoral candidates requested a recount, which will go through the District Courts.

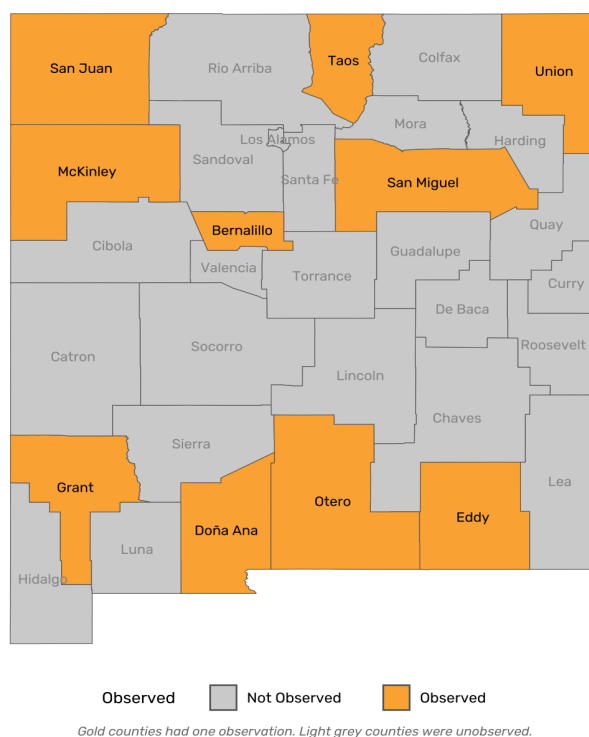
The county canvass is an important safeguard for fair elections. It is a public meeting where the Board of County Canvassers, usually composed of County Commissioners, reviews and certifies the official election results for the county. During the canvass, the Board and the County Clerk check whether vote totals are complete and accurate, make sure every ballot has been properly counted, and resolve any discrepancies. If errors or questions come up, they can request explanations, recounts, or further review. Once the results are certified, they are sent to the Secretary of State to be included in the statewide totals. By observing this process, observers confirm that the certified results reflect the will of the voters and help build public confidence in the outcome.

Several key individuals and groups are involved in or may attend the canvass: the County Clerk, who runs county elections and presents the results; the Board of County Canvassers, who approve and sign the final results; party observers and other observers, who serve as official representatives of political parties and observation groups; and members of the public and the media, since the canvass meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Data Collection Overview

ONME observers observed the county canvass certification of election results in ten counties between November 10 and November 20, 2025. The counties where ONME observers were present were in Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, McKinley, Otero, San Miguel, San Juan, Taos, and Union.

Counties Observed During County Canvass Certification



Observers were asked a total of 24 questions, with some questions including follow up questions. The questions included:

- Accessibility of the Venue
- Environment for the County Canvass Certification Meeting
- Certification of Canvass of the Results of the Election
- Improved Observer Understanding of Electoral Process²⁶

The full checklist and response options can be found in Appendix 6.

Accessibility of the Venue

Similarly to any other process of the electoral process where ONME observers were present, observers observing county canvass certifications were asked about the accessibility of the venues where the certification took place. ONME observers were asked whether they were able to see any of the following accessibility features when they arrived at the voting location:

- Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage
- An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired
- A clearly marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance
- The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked

As in previous electoral processes, ONME observers were asked five questions about these features.

As the table shows, almost all locations that were observed in-person (Bernalillo and Otero County are excluded since these were observed virtually) had all five accessibility features. Both the Eddy and Taos County observers noted that the wheelchair-accessible entrance was not unlocked.

²⁶ Each observer, at each stage of the process they observed, was asked whether the observation experience resulted in a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico. All of those findings are summarized in the section on "Election Observation as a Civic Engagement Initiative" and will not be further discussed in the other sections.

Accessibility of Venue (County Canvass)	Doña Ana County	Eddy County	Grant County	McKinley County	San Juan County	San Miguel County	Taos County	Union County	Total locations where item was covered
Accessible parking spots									8
Obstacle-free path from parking to entrance									8
Clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance									8
Wheelchair-accessible main entrance									8
Unlocked wheelchair-accessible entrance									6
Total content items observed by location	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	

Environment of the Results Certification

Other watchers and observers (aside from the ONME observers) were only observed in McKinley County.

In McKinley County, one journalist or member of the media, and five members of the public were observed. No other people were observed.

County Canvass Procedures

Observers were also asked what they were able to observe during the county canvass procedures, and how the processes of the county canvass were completed. Specifically, observers were asked the following:

- The number of county canvass board members
- Whether election returns to be certified were made available to members of the public
- Missing election returns from polling locations
- Election returns that were not accompanied by properly executed certificate of results in polling locations.
- Potential discrepancies with election results
- Errors, omissions, or ambiguities with the election returns
- Recheck requests

The following subsections go into detail on what observers were able to observe. Overall, county canvass procedures were conducted smoothly, without any major concerns.

• Number of County Canvassing Board Members

The number of county canvassing board members observed (online or in-person) by ONME observers ranged from three to nine members. On average, about five members were present across the ten counties observed.

County	Number of County Canvassing Members Present
Bernalillo	4
Doña Ana	6
Eddy	9
Grant	7
McKinley	5
Otero	4
San Juan	3
San Miguel	5
Taos	5
Union	4

- **Missing election returns from polling locations**

No election returns were reported missing from the polling locations.

- **Election returns that were not accompanied by properly executed certificate of results in polling locations**

Observers were also asked if all election returns were accompanied by a properly executed certificate of results. All observers reported that this was the case.

- **Potential discrepancies with election results**

In addition, observers were asked whether any potential discrepancies were reported with the election results. None of the observers observed this to be the case.

- **Errors, omissions, or ambiguities with the election returns**

No observer reported that election returns contained any errors, omissions, or ambiguities.

- **Recheck requests**

Observers were also asked whether any of the following requested a recheck of the voting machines and a comparison with the returns:

- Candidates
- Voters presenting a petition
- Members of the County Canvassing Board

1. **Candidates**

A request for a recheck of the voting machines and a comparison with the returns was only observed to have been made by a mayoral candidate in Union County. According to the observer, the candidate's next step would be to file a case with the District Court, and the re-count request would proceed from there. The observer reported that this was announced by the County Clerk.

2. **Voters presenting a petition**

No voters presenting a petition to recheck the voting machines and a comparison with the returns were observed.

3. **Members of the County Canvassing Board**

Similarly, none of the members of the County Canvassing Board requested a recheck in the locations observed.

Certification of the Results

ONME observers were also asked whether there were any refusals to certify election results by members of the County Canvassing Board, or objections to the announced results by political party members or members of the public.

No observer reported seeing any objections, or members of the County Canvassing Board refusing to certify the election results. Observers also did not see any automatic recounts triggered as a result of the certification of the canvass of the election results.

Other Observers and Their Conduct

As mentioned above, other observers were only reported in McKinley County. In addition to the presence of other observers, ONME is also interested in learning whether any incidents of violence or harassment, disruption, or influence or coercion were reported. No observer reported seeing any incidents of violence or harassment, disruptions, or attempts to influence or coerce County Canvassing Board members.

Conclusion

Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME) mobilized observers to observe poll worker training, logic and accuracy testing, early in-person voting, Election Day voting, absentee ballot processing, and the certification of election results across eleven municipalities during the 2025 Regular Local Election.

Overall, all processes that were observed were conducted transparently and smoothly and without major disruptions. As the report illustrates, there were a number of issues reported by ONME observers that county clerks and the state may wish to consider to ensure the electoral process is as accessible, transparent, and as well-conducted as possible. Specifically, some poll worker trainings may wish to expand the content they cover (particularly on voter protection and electioneering and language access). During logic and accuracy testing, more sites may wish to add obvious signage and space to ensure the general public can observe testing. For both Election Day and early in-person voting, expanding language access, particularly in counties that are mandated to provide such access by federal law, is critical.

Observe New Mexico Elections is a project by and for New Mexicans, funded with the generous support of The Carter Center, through a fiscal sponsorship provided by the New Mexico Foundation.

Acknowledgements

Observe New Mexico Elections (ONME) would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication and attention to detail of election workers throughout New Mexico, including the Secretary of State and her staff, county clerks and their staff, and poll workers. We thank the hundreds of New Mexico voters who reached out to ONME, attended ONME trainings, and became nonpartisan election observers in their county. Their observations are the foundation of this report and will serve to strengthen transparency, trust and confidence in our elections. We also acknowledge the contributions of other election-related organizations, observers, watchers and challengers who apply themselves to uphold measures provided in our rules and regulations. Without each individual and entity contributing to the election process, a healthy democracy would not be possible.

Glossary

Absentee Ballot: A ballot mailed to a voter who cannot vote in person early or on Election Day. Absentee ballots are completed at home and returned by mail, drop box, or in person, following state-specific deadlines and procedures.

Absent Voter Election Board: Trained election workers responsible for processing absentee ballots. The AVEB checks signatures, opens envelopes, reviews ballots, and oversees tabulation. They work in secure, centralized locations and follow strict procedures to ensure accuracy and transparency.

Accessible Voting System / Ballot Marking Device (BMD): Equipment that helps voters with disabilities fill out a paper ballot.

Adjudication: The process of election workers reviewing ballots by hand when machines can't determine the voter's intent.

Ballot Style: Different versions of ballots used in different areas of the county, based on local races or districts.

Central Count Tabulator: A larger tabulator used at county offices to count vote-by-mail or absentee ballots.

Chain of Custody: The process of securely tracking ballots and election materials from the time they are prepared, through voting, to their final counting and storage.

Challenged Ballot: A ballot that a party observer/watcher disputes for some reason. It is set aside for later review.

Electioneering: Campaigning near a polling place, including wearing campaign-related clothing or accessories - prohibited within 100 feet.

Electronic Pollbook: A digital list of registered voters used to check people in at polling places.

Electronic Vote Tabulator: A machine that counts votes.

Invalid Ballot that has to be hand tallied: A ballot that a voter made a mistake on and needs to replace. The spoiled ballot is marked and set aside so the voter can get a new one.

Out-Stacking: When a tabulator separates certain ballots for human review—for example, ones that are hard to read.

Overvote: When a ballot has too many selections in one race (e.g., voting for two people in a vote-for-one contest).

Poll Workers/Precinct Board Members: Community members trained to run polling places.

Precinct Count Tabulator: A smaller machine used at polling places on Election Day.

Presiding Judge: Lead poll worker in charge of the site.

Provisional Ballot: A ballot set aside until voter eligibility can be confirmed.

Secrecy Envelope: The inner envelope that protects a voter's privacy. It's separated from the outer envelope before counting.

Spoiled Ballot: A ballot that a voter made a mistake on and needs to replace. The spoiled ballot is marked and set aside so the voter can get a new one.

Tabulator: A secure machine that scans and counts ballots counting and storage.

Test Deck: A set of pre-filled sample ballots used to test the machines. Officials already know what the results should be.

Undervote: When a voter casts a vote for one race on the ballot, but one or more other races are left blank.

Verification: The process of checking the voter's signature and last four digits of their Social Security number against their voter record.

Zero Report: A printout that shows all vote totals at zero before any ballots are run through the tabulator.

Observer Code of Conduct

Observe New Mexico Elections

Code of Conduct for Nonpartisan Election Observers

By signing this code of conduct, nonpartisan election observers agree to be bound by its provisions.

Observe New Mexico Elections reserves the right to dismiss any individual who fails to uphold this code of conduct.

1. Observers will inform themselves about the process that they are observing through review of any materials provided and attendance at any mandatory training sessions.
2. Observers will conduct themselves at all times in a civil and serious manner that will reflect positively on the nonpartisan observation effort. They will respect state and local laws, abide by any instructions provided by election officials and maintain a respectful attitude.
3. Observers recognize that they can in no way interfere with the elections process. They cannot provide guidance to election workers or behave in a disruptive or distracting manner in any way. Should they have objections or concerns, they will elevate them through established channels.
4. All observers must maintain strict impartiality while they are observing. At no time during their observation will they publicly indicate or express bias or preference with regards to any political party, candidate(s) or ballot initiatives.
5. Observers must not display any party symbols at any time while they are observing. This means that they will not carry, wear or display electoral material or any article of clothing, emblem, colors, hats, badges, etc. that would indicate their support for or opposition to any party, candidate or key issues in contention in the election.
6. Observers will be objective in their reporting and refrain from sharing rumors or speculation. They will report what they see – positive or negative – in a timely and accurate manner.
7. Observers are not allowed to engage in intimidating conduct, nor to carry or display arms or weapons of any kind during the time they are engaged with the project.
8. Individual observers who violate any provisions of this code of conduct will be immediately withdrawn and their organization will be notified.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Poll Worker Training Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE TRAINING VENUE QUESTIONS		
<i>Were each of the following accessibility features present at the training venue?</i>		
No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

TRAINING CONTENT QUESTIONS		
No.	Question	Response Options
6	Did you observe training on OPENING & OPERATING THE POLLING LOCATION?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
7	The process required to open the voting location to the public.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
8	What materials will be provided for the polling location?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
9	The hours voting locations are open?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
10	Hours precinct board members and poll workers are expected to work?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
11	Implementing wait time reduction plans, if needed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
12	Managing voters who arrive after polls close?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
13	Did you observe training on EQUIPMENT & TROUBLESHOOTING?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		

14	Managing signature rosters and electronic pollbooks (the systems for checking in voters)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
15	Resolving alerts or issues with signature rosters and/or electronic pollbooks?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16	Operating electronic vote tabulators?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
17	Troubleshooting electronic vote tabulator errors?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
18	Removing and storing removable media from vote tabulators?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
19	Locking and securing vote tabulators after the election?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
20	Verifying machine-printed election returns?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
21	Storing and transmitting machine-printed election returns?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
22	Troubleshooting issues with voting equipment, such as electronic pollbooks and electronic vote tabulators.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
23	Did you observe training on ACCESSIBILITY AND VOTER ACCOMMODATIONS?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
24	Setting up accessible voting equipment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
25	Troubleshooting issues with accessible voting equipment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
26	How to assist voters who request accessibility accommodations?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
27	Assisting voters who request language-related accessibility accommodations?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
28	Providing federally required ballots in required languages, as listed below? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish in all Counties • Diné (Navajo) in Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, and Socorro counties • Zuni in Catron and McKinley counties • Ute in San Juan county • Translation services for Laguna and Acoma voters in Cibola County 	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
29	Did you observe training on VOTER ELIGIBILITY & CHECK-IN?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
30	Who is eligible to vote? <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals must be (i) 18 years of age, (ii) a citizen of the U.S, (iii) a resident of NM, and (iv) not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction to vote.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

31	What information or forms poll workers may request at check-in? <input type="checkbox"/> Workers may request a voter's name, address, and birth date. <input type="checkbox"/> They may not require driver's licenses, social security cards, or proof of citizenship, residency, or age.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
32	Handling same-day voter registration?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
33	Troubleshooting any issues with same-day voter registration?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
34	Did you observe training on VOTER PROTECTION & ELECTIONEERING?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
35	Establishing a 100-foot limit around the voting location where campaigning (electioneering) cannot occur?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
36	Enforcing rules against electioneering?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
37	Enforcing rules against voter intimidation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
38	Did you observe training on BALLOT & VOTING PROCEDURES?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
39	Understanding the different types of ballot styles?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
40	Standard voting procedures?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
41	When and how to issue provisional ballots?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
42	Processing provisional ballots?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
43	Spoiled ballot procedures?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
44	Absentee ballot procedures?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
	Is the training you're observing in Santa Fe or Doña Ana County?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following about ranked choice voting and ballots:</i>		
45	How poll workers should respond to questions about completing a ranked choice ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
46	An explanation of the tabulation process for ranked-choice voting races?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
47	Did you observe training on ELECTION OBSERVERS & LAW ENFORCEMENT?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
48	The role of political party and other election observers/observers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

49	Accommodating law enforcement and police as observers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
50	Roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for the appropriate conduct of law enforcement?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
51	Roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for the appropriate conduct of partisan election observers/observers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
52	Roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for the appropriate conduct of non-partisan election observers/observers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
53	Roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for the appropriate conduct of election challengers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
54	Did you observe training on CLOSING & POST-ELECTION PROCEDURES?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Did the training provide information on the following:</i>		
55	Transmitting results or delivering voted ballots to the central counting place?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
56	Completing an election certificate verifying that all election duties were performed properly?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
57	Preparing to transmit the ballot boxes after the election?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

TRAINING ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONS		
No.	Question	Response Options
58	How many trainers were present? (Please provide as accurate a count as you can)	[blank]
59	How many trainees were present? (Please provide as accurate a count as you can)	[blank]
60	In your opinion, was the training overcrowded?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
61	In your opinion, could all participants see and hear the training clearly?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
62	Were any accessibility accommodations provided during the training (e.g., sign language interpretation, large print, closed captions)? If yes, please provide details below.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
62b	If yes, please provide more information below:	[blank]
63	Did you witness any violence, harassment, or intimidation during the training?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
63b	If yes, please provide more information below:	[blank]
64	Were any members of the media present during this training session?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
65	Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:	
65a	Democratic Party	[blank]

65b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
65c	Republican Party	[blank]
65d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
65e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
65f	Other members of the public	[blank]
66	Did any of the other individuals present during testing identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or challengers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
66b	If yes, list organizations mentioned:	[blank]

TRAINING OUTCOME QUESTIONS

No.	Question	Response Options
67	As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
68	During your observation experience, were there any topics, processes, or parts of the training that you found confusing or unclear? If so, please describe them briefly below.	[blank]

Appendix 2: Logic and Accuracy Testing Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE TRAINING VENUE QUESTIONS		
<i>Were each of the following accessibility features present at the test site?</i>		
No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No

TRAINING ENVIRONMENT		
No.	Question	Response Options
6	Were there posted signs indicating how to find the logic and accuracy test when you arrived at the test site?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
7	Was space made available at the test site for observers away from the general public to observe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
8	Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:	
8a	Democratic Party	[blank]
8b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
8c	Republican Party	[blank]
8d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
8e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
8f	Other members of the public	[blank]
9	Did any of the other individuals present during testing identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or challengers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
9b	If yes, list organizations mentioned:	[blank]
10	Were any handouts or verbal explanations of logic and accuracy testing provided to individuals attending? (check all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes, handouts ●Yes, verbal explanations ●Neither handouts nor verbal explanations

11	Were election staff available to answer questions about the logic and accuracy test?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
TESTING PROCEDURES		
No.	Question	Response Options
12	How many of the following instruments were tested while you were present? (If none were tested, write 0)	
12a	Central count vote tabulation machines	[blank]
12b	Tabulators for use in polling locations	[blank]
12c	Accessible voting systems / ballot marking devices	[blank]
12d	Electronic pollbooks	[blank]
13	Did election officials print zero reports for all tabulators to be tested prior to beginning testing?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
13b	If you answered no to 13, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
14	Were all zero reports confirmed by all political party observers present?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No Party Observers <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
15	Did election officials test the tabulators using a test deck?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
15b	If no, what did election officials use to test the tabulators?	[blank]
16	Did the ballots tested by election officials include test ballots that:	
16a	Were blank or under-voted?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16b	Had write-in candidates?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16c	Were over-voted?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16d	For all ballot styles that will be used in the county? (all combinations of candidates and questions)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16e	(for observations in Santa Fe & Doña Ana Counties only) Were for use in an election with ranked choice voting (where voters rank candidates as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. instead of picking a single candidate)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
17	Did election officials test any other unusual ballot cases as part of their test deck (e.g., ballots with stray marks, ballots in red pen, ballots from another election)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
17b	If you answered yes to 17, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
18	Did the election officials test the out-stacking functionality (ability of the machines to set aside ballots with errors, write-ins, etc., that need to be interpreted by humans) of central count equipment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No Central Equipment <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

TESTING RESULTS		
No.	Question	Response Options
20	Did the election officials generate a summary report at the end of testing tabulation equipment?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
20b	If you answered no to 20, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
21	Did all political party observers present verify that the results of the summary report matched the expected results from the test deck?	●Yes ●No ●No party observers●Unable to Observe
22	How many unexpected errors with equipment were detected during testing?	[blank]
22b	If you gave any answer other than 0 (zero), please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
23	Was all equipment tested ultimately certified for use in the November 4 general elections?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
23b	If you answered no to 23, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
24	Did election officials:	
24a	Clear the testing results from all tabulation equipment and reset each counter to zero at the end of testing?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
24b	Immediately seal all tested voting machines with a metal seal following testing?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
24c	Record the metal seal number on the certificate for each voting machine tested?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
24d	Record the reading on the protective counter when voting machines were sealed on the certificates?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
24e	Seal and retain any logic and accuracy test printout(s)	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

CONDUCT OF OTHER ACTORS		
No.	Question	Response Options
25	If party observers or other members of the public were present, did any of them raise challenges or object to the conduct of logic and accuracy testing	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
25b	If yes, please provide additional information	
26	Did any of the party observers present or members of the public attempt to intimidate or otherwise influence any of the election officials during logic and accuracy testing?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
26b	If yes, please provide additional information	
27	Did you witness or hear of any other instances of violence or intimidation during logic and accuracy testing?	●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

27b	If yes, please provide additional information	
28	Was the logic and accuracy test disrupted at any point?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
28b	If yes, please provide additional information	

TESTING OUTCOME QUESTIONS

No.	Question	Response Options
29	As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the electoral process in New Mexico?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Appendix 3: Early In-Person Voting Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VOTING PLACE

Were each of the following accessibility features present at the test site?

No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Election Official Arrival & Opening the Polls

No.	Question	Response Options
6	Did you observe the opening of the poll location?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No , I was not allowed in to observe opening <input type="radio"/> No, I was not able to observe for some other reason
7	What time did the polls officially open?	<input type="radio"/> Before the scheduled opening time <input type="radio"/> At the scheduled opening time <input type="radio"/> After the scheduled opening time <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
7b	If polls opened after the scheduled opening time, what time did the polls open exactly? If possible, please also describe any known reasons for the delayed opening. (Ask an election worker, if possible)	[blank]

8	Was there already a line of voters waiting before the polling place officially opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
8b	If there was a line prior to opening, roughly how many people were in line? (Approximate to the best of your ability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Small Line (1-10 people) ●Moderate Line (11-50 people) ●Long Line (50 -99 people) ●Enormous Line (100+ people) ●Unable to Observe
8c	If there was a line of voters waiting before polls opened, did you notice anything worth noting about the line (for example, how quickly it moved, voter or poll worker behavior, delays, or anything unusual)?	[blank]
9	Were you able to count the number of election officials at the opening?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
10	Before opening the voting location, did the precinct board members check the total number of lifetime votes shown on each voting machine's counter and confirm they matched the numbers on the machine's certificate? (You may need to ask an election worker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

Fellow Observers/Watchers During the Opening of the Polls

No.	Question	Response Options
11	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
11a	Democratic Party	[blank]
11b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
11c	Republican Party	[blank]
11d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
11e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
11f	Other members of the public	[blank]
12	Did any of the other individuals present at the opening identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
12b	If you answered yes to 12, please list the names of any organizations mentioned or seen in the space below:	[blank]

VOTING LOCATION SETUP AND READINESS AT OPENING		
No.	Question	Response Options
13	Did the voting location have voting stations set up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
13b	How many voting stations (or aka booths) did the voting location have?	[blank]
14	In your opinion, were the voting stations set up so people could vote privately (ensuring the secrecy of their ballots)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
15	Did each voting station have instructions on how to fill out a ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
16	At the start of voting, did the location have a paper list (or roster) for voters to sign, an electronic check-in system, or both?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Paper roster ●Electronic pollbook ●Both ●Neither ●Unable to Observe
17	When voting started, did the voting location have regular ballots or a way to print ballots (e.g. through a ballot-on-demand printer)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
18	When voting started, did the voting location have provisional ballots, provisional ballot envelopes or a way to print provisional ballots (e.g. through a ballot-on-demand printer)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
19	Did the voting location have at least one accessible voting system (voting machine or setup for people with disabilities)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
20	Were there any instructions posted about how to use the accessible voting system?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
21	Was the accessible voting system set up when the voting location opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
22	Was the accessible voting system turned on when the voting location opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
23	Did an election official run several test ballots through the accessible voting system to confirm it is working?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

VOTING INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS		
No.	Question	Response Options
<i>Did the location have the following information or instructions posted conspicuously in the polling place?</i>		
24	Instructions on how to cast a valid vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
25	The hours during which the voting location is open?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
26	Information about how to contact state and/or federal officials if an individual's voting rights are violated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
27	How to request a new ballot if a voter spoils their ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
28	Voters' rights to cast a provisional ballot, and how to request a provisional ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

29	A sample ballot (or sample ballots)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
30	A notice with information about federal or state laws prohibiting voter fraud or misrepresentation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
31	In what languages were you able to see posted information and instructions about voting? (Check all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●English ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute ●Keres ●Other ●Unable to Observe

VOTER CHECK-IN		
No.	Question	Response Options
32	Did an election official check each voter's name and registration on the voter list or electronic poll book?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No verification of voters ●Unable to Observe
33	Did an election official say each voter's name out loud after they signed in the register or confirmed their info in an electronic pollbook?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No names read aloud ●Unable to Observe
34	After verifying voters' information, did election officials ask anyone to show photo ID (e.g., provisional or first-time voters)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No such voters ●Unable to Observe
35	Were any voters required to provide voter ID when they should not have been required to do so (e.g. they were already a registered, eligible voter)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

SAME-DAY REGISTRATION		
No.	Question	Response Options
36	About how many people asked for same-day registration or to update their voter registration? (please provide your best estimate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe
37	Did everyone who used same-day registration or who requested updates to their voter registration information sign an affidavit saying they hadn't already voted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No (never) ●Unable to Observe
38	Did election officials ask all individuals who requested same-day registration or a same-day update to their voter registration to provide valid photo ID and proof of residence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No (never) ●Unable to Observe
39	What types of ballots were provided to voters who requested a same day registration or a same day update to their registration to vote? (Please check all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Provisional ballot ●Regular ballot ●Both provisional and regular ballots depending on the voter ●Unable to Observe

RESOLVING VOTER ISSUES		
No.	Question	Response Options
40	Were any voters turned away throughout the day because they were registered in a different county?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
40b	If any voters were at the wrong voting location, were they given information about where they should vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
41	Were any voters turned away throughout the day because of a previous felony conviction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe

42	Were any voters turned away from the polls throughout the day without first being given the option to vote using a provisional ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe
43	If a voter asked for a replacement for a spoiled ballot, did they receive one from an election judge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●Never(all requests were denied) ●Zero Requests ●Unable to Observe
44	Were spoiled ballots clearly labelled as such and retained separately by the election judges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
45	Did all voters who voted a provisional ballot receive written instructions about how to determine if their ballot was counted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●No. Instructions never provided ●Not applicable, no provisional ballots ●Unable to Observe
46	Were provisional ballots clearly identifiable as such and retained separately by the election judges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
47	Did any election equipment malfunction throughout the day? (Select all that malfunctioned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Electronic pollbook ●Electronic vote tabulator ●Other equipment ●No malfunctions ●Unable to Observe
47b	Please provide further information on any malfunctions you witnessed. What machine(s) malfunctioned, and were they resolved?	[blank]

ELECTRONIC VOTE TABULATORS		
No.	Question	Response Options
48	Did all voters with a regular ballot place their voted ballots in an electronic vote tabulator (machine for counting ballots) before exiting the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●No electronic vote tabulator ●Unable to Observe

ABSENTEE BALLOTS		
No.	Question	Response Options
49	Were there secure absentee ballot drop boxes at the voting location (at least one)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
50	Did any voters throughout the day return their absentee ballots to the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
51	Did all voters dropping off absentee ballots hand them directly to an election official or put it in the secure absentee ballot drop box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Handed to election official ●Put in secure dropbox ●Both ●Unable to Observe
52	Did an election judge record that each absentee ballot was returned by a voter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
53	Were all absentee ballots received stored in a clearly marked envelope or container?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
54	At any time, did you witness anyone attempt to open official absentee ballot envelopes or containers? (This could include an election official, voter, or any other person.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
54b	If you witnessed any attempt to open official absentee ballot envelopes or containers, could you please describe the event(s) in detail below.	[blank]

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE		
No.	Question	Response Options
55	Did any voters request ballots in a language other than English?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
55b	How many voters requested ballots in a language other than English?	[blank]

55c	In which non-English languages did voters request a ballot? (Select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute ●Keres ●Other
55d	Were any voters denied ballots in the language they requested?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
56	Did any voters request translator/interpreter assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
56b	How many voters requested translator/interpreter assistance in a non-English language, such as verbal translation of the ballot?	[blank]
56c	In which non-English languages did voters request translator/interpreter assistance? (Select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute ●Keres ●Other
56d	Were any voters denied voting translation/interpreter assistance in the language they requested?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

ASSISTANCE FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

No.	Question	Response Options
57	Did any voters with disabilities request assistance to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
57b	How many voters with disabilities requested assistance to vote (for example, by bringing an assistant or requesting assistance from an election official)?	[blank}
58	Were any voters who requested an assistant not allowed to have the assistant of their choosing accompany them to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●No such voters ●Unable to Observe
59	Were all assistants who accompanied voters into the voting location made to sign the signature roster or electronic pollbook alongside the name of the voter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

CHALLENGES OF VOTER ELIGIBILITY

No.	Question	Response Options
60	Did you observe a voter's eligibility being challenged?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
60b	How many voters had their eligibility to vote formally challenged by someone present at the polling place?	[blank]

61	If a voter's eligibility to vote was challenged, how many of those challenges did the precinct election board unanimously uphold (i.e., the whole board agreed with the challenge)?	[blank]
62	If a voter was challenged but the election board decided they were eligible to vote, did they vote using a regular ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
63	If a voter was challenged and the election board agreed they were not eligible to vote, were they offered a provisional ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

PEACE OFFICER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

No.	Question	Response Options
64	At any point during the day, did an election judge ask a peace officer to help maintain order at the voting location (including outside or at the entrance)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
65	Did a peace officer (such as a state police officer or local police officer) enter the voting location during the day to observe the election?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

STAFFING, SUPPLIES, AND WAIT TIMES

No.	Question	Response Options
66	Did you see or hear about any voters leaving the line during the day because the wait was too long?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
67	Did the presiding judge suspend the voter identification requirements at any time during the day because the line for same day voter registration was too long?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
68	Did the voting location run out of any essential materials (like ballots or pens) at any point during the day?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
68b	What materials did they run out of and what, if anything, did they do about it?	[blank]
69	In your opinion, did the voting location have enough staff and equipment to ensure the voting process ran smoothly all day?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

FELLOW OBSERVERS/WATCHERS DURING OPERATING HOURS

No.	Question	Response Options
70	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Please write the number of observers/observers present from each of the following present at any time during the voting process:</i>		
70a	Democratic Party	[blank]
70b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
70c	Republican Party	[blank]

70d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
70e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
70f	Other members of the public	[blank]
71	Did any of the other individuals present during operating hours identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
71b	If you answered yes to 71, please list organizations mentioned:	[blank]

CLOSE OF POLLS		
No.	Question	Response Options
72	Were you able to observe the close of the polls?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
73	Did an election judge provide a verbal announcement of the close of polls? (i.e., the election judge announced the closing out loud)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
74	Was there still a line of voters at the location when the polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
75	Did everyone who was already in line when the polls closed get a chance to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
76	Did any people who arrived after the polls closed get to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
77	Did the voting location close at its scheduled time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Closed on Time ●Closed Early ●Closed Late ●Unable to Observe
78	Were there election officials or precinct board members present when the voting location closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
78a	How many election officials or precinct board members were present when the voting location closed?	[blank]
79	Did the precinct board complete and sign a certificate documenting the closing of the voting location as soon as the polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

CLOSING PROCEDURES AND BALLOT HANDLING		
No.	Question	Response Options
80	Were ballots tabulated at the precinct after the voting location closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
80b	Were ballots transported to a central location after tabulation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

80c	If you answered no to 80 or 80b, how were ballots secured at the end of the day:	[blank]
81	How often were ballots packaged and transmitted to a central counting facility for tabulation, including after polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple times (3+) ● Twice ● Once ● Never(ballots remained on site) ● Unable to Observe
82	Was the counting of ballots and preparation of election returns open to observation by media as well as lawfully appointed challengers and poll observers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
82b	Please explain	[blank]
83	Did anyone other than precinct board members handle ballots during the closing of the location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
83b	Please indicate the role of who handled the ballots (e.g., an observer, member of the public, etc.) and the circumstances around their handling of the ballots:	[blank]
84	Did the precinct board certify either the paper signature roster or the electronic pollbook printout?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
85	Did the precinct board compare (reconcile) the number of voters checked in with the number of ballots cast?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
86	Were any discrepancies identified in the reconciliation process (i.e., differences found between the number of voters and the number of ballots)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
87	Was the ballot box locked and sealed with a numbered seal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
88	Did election officials keep the envelope containing provisional ballots outside of the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
89	Did election officials keep the envelope containing absentee ballots outside of the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
90	Did officials keep ballots with write-in candidates in a separate envelope, outside the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
91	Did officials prepare the ballot box, envelopes with ballots, and any unused materials (not destroyed) for return to the county clerk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
92	Did the voting location have an electronic vote tabulator?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
93	Did the election judges remove ballots from the precinct tabulation equipment and place the ballots in a ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
94	Did officials store any paper ballots that couldn't be read by the tabulator in a separate envelope, outside the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe

FELLOW OBSERVERS/WATCHERS DURING CLOSING

No.	Question	Response Options
95	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
95a	Democratic Party	[blank]
95b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
95c	Republican Party	[blank]
95d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
95e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
95f	Other members of the public	[blank]
96	Did any of the other individuals present during operating hours identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
96b	If you answered yes to 96, please list the names of any organizations mentioned or seen in the space below:	[blank]

OBSERVER OBJECTIONS AT CLOSING

No.	Question	Response Options
97	Did any of the observers present pose any objections or challenges to the ballot reconciliation or counting process at the location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●No other observers present ●Unable to Observe
97b	If you answered yes to 97, please describe what the objection or challenge was, the organization the challenger represented (if known), and how it was handled:	[blank]

CONDUCT OF OTHER ACTORS

No.	Question	Response Options
98	In your opinion, were any election officials in the voting location being harassed, pressured, or coerced in any way?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
98b	If you answered yes to 98, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
99	Did you see or hear any violence or intimidation that took place in the voting location where you observed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

99b	If you answered yes to 99, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
100	Did you witness or hear of any other instances of electioneering (wearing or distributing candidate or campaign materials within 100 feet of the voting location)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
100b	If you answered yes to 100, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
101	Was the voting process at the location where you observed disrupted or paused at any point during the day?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
101b	If you answered yes to 101, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
102	Did you witness anyone attempting to interfere in, influence, or manipulate the election or voting process at the location where you observed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
102b	If you answered yes to 102, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
103	As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the election process?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
103b	If you answered yes to 103, please provide further information on what you learned that led to a better understanding of the election process.	[blank]

Appendix 4: Election Day Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VOTING PLACE		
<i>Were each of the following accessibility features present at the training venue?</i>		
No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No

ELECTION OFFICIAL ARRIVAL & OPENING THE POLLS		
No.	Question	Response Options
6	Did you observe the opening of the poll location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No , I was not allowed in to observe opening ●No, I was not able to observe for some other reason
7	What time did the polls officially open?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Before 7:00 am ●7:00 am ●After 7:00 am ●Unable to Observe
7b	If polls opened After 7:00am, what time did the polls open exactly? If possible, please also describe any known reasons for the delayed opening. (Ask an election worker, if possible)	[blank]
8	Was there already a line of voters waiting before the polling place officially opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
8b	If there was a line prior to opening, roughly how many people were in line? (Approximate to the best of your ability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Small Line (1-10 people) ●Moderate Line (11-50 people) ●Long Line (50 -99 people) ●Enormous Line (100+ people) ●Unable to Observe

8c	If there was a line of voters waiting before polls opened, did you notice anything worth noting about the line (for example, how quickly it moved, voter or poll worker behavior, delays, or anything unusual)?	[blank]
9	How many total election officials were at the voting location when it opened? (Include the presiding judge in your count.)	[blank]
10	Before opening the voting location, did the precinct board members check the total number of lifetime votes shown on each voting machine's counter and confirm they matched the numbers on the machine's certificate? (You may need to ask an election worker)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

FELLOW OBSERVERS/WATCHERS DURING THE OPENING OF THE POLLS

No.	Question	Response Options
11	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
11a	Democratic Party	[blank]
11b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
11c	Republican Party	[blank]
11d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<input type="radio"/> Free New Mexico Party <input type="radio"/> Green Party <input type="radio"/> Party for Socialism and Liberation <input type="radio"/> None
11e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
11f	Other members of the public	[blank]
12	Did any of the other individuals present at the opening identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
12b	If you answered yes to 12, please list the names of any organizations mentioned or seen in the space below:	[blank]

VOTING LOCATION SETUP AND READINESS AT OPENING

No.	Question	Response Options
13	How many voting stations (or booths) did the voting location have?	[blank]
14	In your opinion, were the voting stations set up so people could vote privately (ensuring the secrecy of their ballots)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
15	Did each voting station have instructions on how to fill out a ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

16	At the start of voting, did the location have a paper list (or roster) for voters to sign, an electronic check-in system, or both?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Paper roster ●Electronic pollbook ●Both ●Neither ●Unable to Observe
17	When voting started, did the voting location have regular ballots or a way to print ballots (e.g. through a ballot-on-demand printer)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
18	When voting started, did the voting location have provisional ballots, provisional ballot envelopes or a way to print provisional ballots (e.g. through a ballot-on-demand printer)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
19	Did the voting location have at least one accessible voting system (voting machine or setup for people with disabilities)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
20	Were there any instructions posted about how to use the accessible voting system?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
21	Was the accessible voting system set up when the voting location opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
22	Was the accessible voting system turned on when the voting location opened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
23	Did an election official run several test ballots through the accessible voting system to confirm it is working?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

VOTING INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS		
No.	Question	Response Options
24	Instructions on how to cast a valid vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
25	The hours during which the voting location is open?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
26	Information about how to contact state and/or federal officials if an individual's voting rights are violated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
27	How to request a new ballot if a voter spoils their ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
28	Voters' rights to cast a provisional ballot, and how to request a provisional ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
29	A sample ballot (or sample ballots)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
30	A notice with information about federal or state laws prohibiting voter fraud or misrepresentation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
31	In what languages were you able to see posted information and instructions about voting? (Check all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●English ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute ●Keres ●Other ●Unable to Observe

MIDDAY REPORT		
No.	Question	Response Options
32	As of 12:30 p.m., in your opinion, did the voting location have sufficient staff and election equipment to ensure a smooth, orderly and efficient voting process throughout the day?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
33	As of 12:30 p.m., were there any significant election equipment malfunctions in the voting location (significant meaning an issue that could not be repaired or otherwise addressed)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
33b	If you answered yes to 33, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
34	As of 12:30 p.m., do you have any significant concerns about anything that has taken place in your voting location since opening?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
34b	If you answered yes to 34, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]

VOTING PROCESS		
No.	Question	Response Options
35	Did an election official check each voter's name and registration on the voter list or electronic poll book?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No verification of voters ●Unable to Observe
36	Did an election official say each voter's name out loud after they signed in the register or confirmed their info in an electronic pollbook?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●No names read aloud ●Unable to Observe
37	After verifying voters' information, did election officials ask anyone to show photo ID (e.g., provisional or first-time voters)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●No such voters ●Unable to Observe
38	Were any voters required to provide voter ID when they should not have been required to do so (e.g. they were already a registered, eligible voter)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

SAME-DAY REGISTRATION		
No.	Question	Response Options
39	About how many people asked for same-day registration or to update their voter registration? (please provide your best estimate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe
40	Did everyone who used same-day registration or who requested updates to their voter registration information sign an affidavit saying they hadn't already voted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
41	Did election officials ask all individuals who requested same-day registration or a same-day update to their voter registration to provide valid photo ID and proof of residence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
42	What types of ballots were provided to voters who requested a same day registration or a same day update to their registration to vote? (Please check all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Provisional ballot ●Regular ballot ●Both provisional and regular ballots depending on the voter

RESOLVING VOTER ISSUES		
No.	Question	Response Options
43	Were any voters turned away throughout the day because they were registered in a different county?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
43b	If any voters were at the wrong voting location, were they given information about where they should vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
44	Were any voters turned away throughout the day because of a previous felony conviction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe

45	Were any voters turned away from the polls throughout the day without first being given the option to vote using a provisional ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●None ●1 to 5 ●6 to 10 ●11 to 20 ●20 or more ●Unable to Observe
46	If a voter asked for a replacement for a spoiled ballot, did they receive one from an election judge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●Never(all requests were denied) ●Zero Requests ●Unable to Observe
47	Were spoiled ballots clearly labelled as such and retained separately by the election judges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
48	Did all voters who voted a provisional ballot receive written instructions about how to determine if their ballot was counted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●No. Instructions never provided ●Not applicable, no provisional ballots ●Unable to Observe
49	Were provisional ballots clearly identifiable as such and retained separately by the election judges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
50	Did any election equipment malfunction throughout the day? (Select all that malfunctioned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Electronic pollbook ●Electronic vote tabulator ●Other equipment ●No malfunctions ●Unable to Observe
50b	If you answered yes to 50, please provide further information on any malfunctions you witnessed. What machine(s) malfunctioned, and were they resolved?	[blank]

ELECTRONIC VOTE TABULATORS

No.	Question	Response Options
51	Did all voters with a regular ballot place their voted ballots in an electronic vote tabulator (machine for counting ballots) before exiting the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●No electronic vote tabulator ●Unable to Observe

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

No.	Question	Response Options
52	Were there secure absentee ballot drop boxes at the voting location (at least one)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
53	Did any voters throughout the day return their absentee ballots to the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
54	Did all voters dropping off absentee ballots hand them directly to an election official or put it in the secure absentee ballot drop box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Handed to election official ●Put in secure dropbox ●Both ●Unable to Observe
55	Did an election judge record that each absentee ballot was returned by a voter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
56	Were all absentee ballots received stored in a clearly marked envelope or container?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes(100% of the time) ●Mostly(more than half the time) ●Sometimes(less than half the time) ●No(Never) ●Unable to Observe
57	At any time, did you witness anyone attempt to open official absentee ballot envelopes or containers? (This could include an election official, voter, or any other person.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
57b	If you witnessed any attempt to open official absentee ballot envelopes or containers, could you please describe the event(s) in detail below.	[blank]

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

No.	Question	Response Options
58	Did any voters request ballots in a language other than English?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No

58b	How many voters requested ballots in a language other than English?	[blank]
58c	In which non-English languages did voters request a ballot? (Select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute
58d	Were any voters denied ballots in the language they requested?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
59	How many voters requested translator/interpreter assistance in a non-English language, such as verbal translation of the ballot? (if no voters requested assistance in a non-English language, write 0 and skip to Q60)	[blank]
59b	In which non-English languages did voters request a ballot? (Select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Spanish ●Navajo/Diné ●Zuni ●Ute ●Keres ●Other
59c	Were any voters denied voting translation/interpretation assistance in the language they requested?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No

ASSISTANCE FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

No.	Question	Response Options
60	Did any voters with disabilities request assistance to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
60b	How many voters with disabilities requested assistance to vote (for example, by bringing an assistant or requesting assistance from an election official)?	[blank]
61	Were any voters who requested an assistant not allowed to have the assistant of their choosing accompany them to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●No such voters ●Unable to Observe
62	Were all assistants who accompanied voters into the voting location made to sign the signature roster or electronic pollbook alongside the name of the voter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

CHALLENGES OF VOTER ELIGIBILITY

No.	Question	Response Options
63	How many voters had their eligibility to vote formally challenged by someone present at the polling place? If there were no challenges, enter "0" and skip to Q67.	[blank]
64	If a voter's eligibility to vote was challenged, how many of those challenges did the precinct election board unanimously uphold (i.e., the whole board agreed with the challenge)?	[blank]

65	If a voter was challenged but the election board decided they were eligible to vote, did they vote using a regular ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
66	If a voter was challenged and the election board agreed they were not eligible to vote, were they offered a provisional ballot?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

PEACE OFFICER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT		
No.	Question	Response Options
67	At any point during the day, did an election judge ask a peace officer to help maintain order at the voting location (including outside or at the entrance)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
68	Did a peace officer (such as a state police officer or local police officer) enter the voting location during the day to observe the election?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

STAFFING, SUPPLIES, AND WAIT TIMES		
No.	Question	Response Options
69	Did you see or hear about any voters leaving the line during the day because the wait was too long?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
70	Did the presiding judge suspend the voter identification requirements at any time during the day because the line for same day voter registration was too long?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
71	Did the voting location run out of any essential materials (like ballots or pens) at any point during the day?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
71b	If the voting location did run out of any essential materials, please describe what materials they ran out of and if and how they rectified this loss of material(s).	[blank]
72	In your opinion, did the voting location have enough staff and equipment to ensure the voting process ran smoothly all day?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe

FELLOW OBSERVERS/WATCHERS DURING OPERATING HOURS		
No.	Question	Response Options
73	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
73a	Democratic Party	[blank]
73b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
73c	Republican Party	[blank]

73d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
73e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
73f	Other members of the public	[blank]
74	Did any of the other individuals present at the opening identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
74b	Please list organizations mentioned:	[blank]

CLOSE OF THE POLLS

No.	Question	Response Options
75	Did you observe the closing of the polling location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
76	Did an election judge provide a verbal announcement of the close of polls? (i.e., the election judge announced the closing out loud)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
77	Was there still a line of voters at the location when the polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
78	Did everyone who was already in line when the polls closed get a chance to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
79	Did any people who arrived after the polls closed get to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
80	Did the voting location close at its scheduled time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Closed on Time ●Closed Early ●Closed Late ●Unable to Observe
81	How many election officials or precinct board members were present when the voting location closed? Enter your best estimate below (write "0" if none).	[blank]
82	Did the precinct board complete and sign a certificate documenting the closing of the voting location as soon as the polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

BALLOT COUNTING AND PREPARATION OF RETURNS

No.	Question	Response Options
83	Were ballots tabulated at the precinct after the voting location closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
83b	If yes to 83, were ballots transported to a central location after tabulation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
83c	If you answered no to 83 or 83b, how were ballots secured at the end of the day:	[blank]

84	If no to 83, how often were ballots packaged and transmitted to a central counting facility for tabulation, including after polls closed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Multiple times (3+) ●Twice ●Once ●Never(ballots remained on site) ●Unable to Observe
85	Was the counting of ballots and preparation of election returns open to observation by media as well as lawfully appointed challengers and poll observers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
85b	Please explain	[blank]
86	Did anyone other than precinct board members handle ballots during the closing of the location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
86b	Please indicate the role of who handled the ballots (e.g., an observer, member of the public, etc.) and the circumstances around their handling of the ballots:	[blank]
87	Did the precinct board certify either the paper signature roster or the electronic pollbook printout?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
88	Did the precinct board compare (reconcile) the number of voters checked in with the number of ballots cast?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
89	Were any discrepancies identified in the reconciliation process (i.e., differences found between the number of voters and the number of ballots)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
90	Was the ballot box locked and sealed with a numbered seal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
91	Did election officials log all seal number(s) for the ballot box(es) at the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
92	Did the presiding judge read aloud the results of the votes cast for the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
93	<p>Were all of the items below placed by election officials in a container to be returned to the county clerk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The signature roster or a printout from the electronic pollbook ● The other copy of the printed election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) (if present) ● The tabulator's removable storage drive (if present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
94	Did election officials keep the envelope containing provisional ballots outside of the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
95	Did election officials keep the envelope containing absentee ballots outside of the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
96	Did officials keep ballots with write-in candidates in a separate envelope, outside the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
97	Did the election judges prepare and sign a certificate of election for the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
98	Did officials prepare the ballot box, envelopes with ballots, and any unused materials (not destroyed) for return to the county clerk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
99	Did election officials post a copy of the printed election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) in use in the location outside of the polling location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

100	Did the presiding judge or a designated special messenger take custody of the ballot box and other materials for delivery to the county clerk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
101	Did the voting location have an electronic vote tabulator?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
102	Did the election judges remove ballots from the electronic vote tabulator and place the ballots in a ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
103	Did officials store any paper ballots that couldn't be read by the tabulator in a separate envelope, outside the ballot box?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
104	Did election officials print copies of the election returns for all precinct tabulators in use at the voting location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
105	Did two election officials of different political parties verify that the counter settings on the machine-printed election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) were legible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
106	Were the election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) signed by all members of the precinct board?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
107	Were the election returns from the precinct tabulator(s) signed by two election observers or observers with different political affiliations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Insufficient observers present ●Unable to Observe

FELLOW OBSERVERS/WATCHERS DURING CLOSING

No.	Question	Response Options
108	Were you the only poll observer or observer present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
108a	Democratic Party	[blank]
108b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
108c	Republican Party	[blank]
108d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
108e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
108f	Other members of the public	[blank]
109	Did any of the other individuals present at the opening identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or observers (excluding yourself)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
109b	If you answered yes to 109, please list the names of any organizations mentioned or seen in the space below:	[blank]

OBSERVER OBJECTIONS AT CLOSING		
No.	Question	Response Options
110	Did any of the observers present pose any objections or challenges to the ballot reconciliation or counting process at the location?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
110b	If yes to 110, please describe what the objection or challenge was, the organization the challenger represented (if known), and how it was handled:	[blank]

CONDUCT OF OTHER ACTORS		
No.	Question	Response Options
111	In your opinion, were any election officials in the voting location being harassed, pressured, or coerced in any way?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
111b	If you answered yes to 111, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
112	Did you see or hear any violence or intimidation that took place in the voting location where you observed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
112b	If you answered yes to 112, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
113	Did you witness or hear of any other instances of electioneering (wearing or distributing candidate or campaign materials within 100 feet of the voting location)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
113b	If you answered yes to 113, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
114	Was the voting process at the location where you observed disrupted or paused at any point during the day?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
114b	If you answered yes to 114, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
115	Did you witness anyone attempting to interfere in, influence, or manipulate the election or voting process at the location where you observed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
115b	If you answered yes to 115, please provide additional information in the space below:	[blank]
116	As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the election process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
116b	If you answered yes to 116, please provide further information on what you learned that led to a better understanding of the election process.	[blank]

Appendix 5: Absentee Ballot Processing Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VOTING PLACE		
<i>Were each of the following accessibility features present at the training venue?</i>		
No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No

ENVIRONMENT FOR BALLOT PROCESSING		
No.	Question	Response Options
6	Was space made available at the ballot processing venue for observers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
7	How many members of the Absent Voter Election Board (election workers) were conducting ballot processing?	[blank]
8	Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:	
8b	Democratic Party	[blank]
8c	Libertarian Party	[blank]
8d	Republican Party	[blank]
8e	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Free New Mexico Party ● Green Party ● Party for Socialism and Liberation ● None
8f	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
8g	Other members of the public	[blank]
9	Did any of the other individuals present during testing identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or challengers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
9b	If yes, list organizations mentioned:	[blank]

10	Were any handouts or verbal explanations of absentee ballot processing provided to individuals attending?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Handouts ●Verbal explanations ●Both handouts and verbal explanations ●Neither handouts nor verbal explanations ●Unable to Observe
11	Were election staff available to answer questions about ballot processing and tabulation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

BALLOT RECEIPTING / EXAMINATION		
No.	Question	Response Options
12	During the period you observed, did the poll workers consistently:	
12a	Scan the unique barcode on each official mailing envelope?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
12b	Mark each ballot as received in the Secretary of State's voter database?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
12c	Verify the ballot envelope signature against the signature of record in the voter database?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
12d	Verify the last four digits of the voter's social security number (SSN) on the official ballot envelope against the voter's record in the voter database?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
13	Please ask an election official at the end of the day, then answer: how many ballots did the Absent Voter Election Board reject because of:	
13a	A mismatched signature	[blank]
13b	A missing signature	[blank]
13c	The last four digits of the voter's SSN were mismatched	[blank]

13d	The last four digits of the voter's SSN were missing	[blank]
14	During the period that you observed, did any political party challengers challenge any individual's eligibility to cast an absentee ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
14b	If yes, please provide additional information about the challenger (private citizen, political party observer and affiliation, etc.), the grounds for the challenge and how the challenge was resolved (if known):	[blank]
14c	During the period you observed, how many of the challenges to an individual's eligibility to cast an absentee ballot were upheld by the presiding judge and election judges? (If none, mark 0 and skip to Q 15)	[blank]
14d	Were all ballots upheld as challenged placed in a separate container for challenged ballots?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
15	While you were observing, did the Absent Voter Election Board record all verified and unchallenged ballots?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
16	Did election officials contact:	
16a	Voters with missing or mismatched signatures / SSNs to cure (fix) their ballots?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
16b	Individuals whose ballots had been challenged with information about how to prove their eligibility to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
16c	Individuals whose ballots had been challenged with information about how to prove their eligibility to vote?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe

BALLOT SORTING		
No.	Question	Response Options
17	Were the ballots sorted by ballot style before processing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
17b	Were these same-style ballot batches bundled / rubber-banded together?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe
18	Did election workers remove the ballot secrecy envelope from the outer/ official mailing envelope?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes (100% of the time) ●Mostly (more than half the time) ●Sometimes (less than half the time) ●Never ●Unable to Observe

18b	Did election workers confirm that these outer/official mailing envelopes were empty?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (100% of the time) ● Mostly (more than half the time) ● Sometimes (less than half the time) ● Never ● Unable to Observe
18c	Were the empty outer/official mailing envelopes thrown away?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (100% of the time) ● Mostly (more than half the time) ● Sometimes (less than half the time) ● Never ● Unable to Observe
19	During the period you observed ballot sorting, were ballots always handled with oversight from at least two individuals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
19b	If you answered no to 19, please provide additional information below:	[blank]

BALLOT PRE-PROCESSING AND TABULATION		
No.	Question	Response Options
20	Did election workers remove ballots from their inner secrecy envelopes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (100% of the time) ● Mostly (more than half the time) ● Sometimes (less than half the time) ● Never ● Unable to Observe
20b	Did election workers confirm that each of these secrecy envelopes contained only one ballot in the correct ballot style?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (100% of the time) ● Mostly (more than half the time) ● Sometimes (less than half the time) ● Never ● Unable to Observe
20c	Were the empty inner secrecy envelopes thrown away?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (100% of the time) ● Mostly (more than half the time) ● Sometimes (less than half the time) ● Never ● Unable to Observe
21	Did election workers identify any mis-sorted ballots (ballots of the wrong style or from the wrong election)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Unable to Observe
21b	Did election workers produce a report to track any mis-sorted ballots and ensure that they could be correctly counted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● No mis-sorted ballots ● Unable to Observe

22	Prior to beginning tabulation, did election officials produce zero reports for all electronic vote tabulators?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
22b	Did all present political party observers verify the zero reports prior to the beginning of tabulation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No political party observers <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
23	How many total ballots did the electronic vote tabulators fail to process (because of ballot condition, over-votes, blanks, etc.?) (If you don't know, please ask an election official)	[blank]
23b	Did an election board manually review all of the ballots that the electronic vote tabulators failed to process, thereby determining voter intent?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No ballots failed to process <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
24	Did any of the present political party observers or other individuals have any objections to the determinations of voter intent made by the election board(s)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No political party observers <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
24b	If you answered yes to 24, please provide additional information below:	[blank]
25	Did you witness or observe individuals involved in the tabulation process attempt to alter or manipulate any of the ballots in any way?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
25b	If you answered no to 25, please provide additional information below:	[blank]
26	At the end of tabulation, were all ballots secured and stored?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
26b	If you answered no to 26, how were the ballots handled at the end of tabulation:	[blank]
27	During the period you observed ballot pre-processing and tabulation, were ballots always handled with oversight from at least two individuals?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
27b	If you answered no to 27, please provide additional information below:	[blank]

CONDUCT OF OTHER ACTORS		
No.	Question	Response Options
28	At any time during the period you observed, were ballots handled by individuals other than the official election workers?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
28b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
29	If political party observers or other members of the public were present, did any of them raise challenges or object to the conduct of ballot processing or tabulation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
29b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
30	In your opinion, were any of the individuals involved in ballot processing/ tabulation subjected to harassment, influence, or coercion at any time?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
30b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]

31	Did you witness or hear of any other instances of violence or intimidation that took place during ballot processing/tabulation on the day you observed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
31b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
32	Was ballot processing/tabulation disrupted at any point during the day you observed for any reason other than a scheduled break?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
32b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
33	Did any unauthorized individuals attempt to gain access to ballot processing or tabulation at any point during the period you observed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
33b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
34	Were there any aspects of the absentee ballot processing that you were not able to observe?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
34b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]

Appendix 6: County Canvass Certification of Results Checklist

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VENUE		
<i>Were each of the following accessibility features present at the training venue?</i>		
No.	Question	Response Options
1	Accessible parking spots, clearly marked with blue lines and obvious signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
2	An obstacle-free path from parking to entrance: paved and clear of stairs, physical obstacles, or narrow doorways; suitable for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
3	A clearly-marked, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
4	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was the main entrance, not a side/back entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
5	The wheelchair-accessible entrance was unlocked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No

ENVIRONMENT FOR THE COUNTY CANVASS		
No.	Question	Response Options
6	Were you the only observer or observer present?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No
<i>Please write the number of observers or observers present from each of the following:</i>		
6a	Democratic Party	[blank]
6b	Libertarian Party	[blank]
6c	Republican Party	[blank]
6d	Minor parties (circle all that are present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Free New Mexico Party ●Green Party ●Party for Socialism and Liberation ●None
6e	Journalists/members of the media	[blank]
6f	Other members of the public	[blank]
7	Did any of the other individuals present during testing identify themselves as nonpartisan or independent observers, monitors, or challengers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Yes ●No ●Unable to Observe
7b	If you answered yes to 7, please list the names of any organizations mentioned or seen in the space below:	[blank]

COUNTY CANVASS PROCEDURES

No.	Question	Response Options
8	Were you able to observe the number of County Canvass Board members who were present online or in person doing the canvass?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
8b	How many members of the County Canvassing Board were present (online or in-person) during the canvass?	[blank]
9	Were copies of the election returns to be certified made available to members of the public in any manner (hard copy, posting at the venue, verbal announcement, projection, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
9b	If yes, in what manner (hard copy, posting at the venue, verbal announcement, projection, etc.)?	[blank]
<i>For question 10 through 13, did any members of the County Canvassing Board raise concerns that the election returns:</i>		
10	Were missing?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
10b	If yes, please provide additional information.	[blank]
11	Were not accompanied by a properly executed certificate of results?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
11b	If yes, please provide additional information.	[blank]
12	Had any potential discrepancies?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
12b	If yes, please provide additional information.	[blank]
13	Contained any errors, omissions, or ambiguities?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
13b	If yes, please provide additional information.	[blank]
14	Did you observe any candidates request a recheck of the voting machines and a comparison with the returns?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
14b	If yes, please provide additional information, including whether this request was granted.	[blank]
15	Did you observe any voters present a petition to recheck the voting machines and a comparison with the returns?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
15b	If you answered yes to 15, how many signatures were presented on the petition to recheck the voting machines and a comparison with returns?	[blank]
15c	If you answered yes to 15, please provide additional information.	[blank]
16	Did you observe any members of the County Canvassing Board request a recheck of the voting machines and a comparison with the returns (for any reason)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
16b	If yes, please provide additional information, including whether this request was granted.	[blank]

CERTIFICATION OF CANVASS OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

No.	Question	Response Options
17	Did any of the members of the County Canvassing Board refuse to certify the canvass of the election returns?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
17b	If yes, please provide additional information including name(s) of the board member(s) and the reasons they gave.	[blank]
18	Did any political party or candidate observers raise objections to the announced results?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
18b	If yes, please provide additional information including their party affiliation and the nature of the objections(s)	[blank]
19	Did any of the members of the public raise objections to the announced results?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
19b	If yes, please provide additional information about the objection(s)	[blank]
20	Were any automatic recounts triggered as a result of the certification of the canvass of the election results?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
<i>During the process:</i>		
21	Did you witness or hear of any incidents of violence or intimidation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
21b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
22	Was the canvass disrupted at any point in time (for any reason)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
22b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
23	In your opinion, were any of the members of the County Canvassing Board subjected to harassment, influence or coercion?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
23b	If yes, please provide additional information	[blank]
24	As a result of your observation experience, do you feel you have a better understanding of the election process?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unable to Observe
24b	If you answered yes to 24, please provide further information on what you learned that led to a better understanding of the election process. Think about things that resonated with you or were surprising to learn.	[blank]

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