

# Registering for Election Observer Status

## May 2007 Elections

Thank you for volunteering to be an ORG election observer in your area. This document will explain what you need to provide us so that we can get you accredited by The Electoral Commission.

# The Steps

## **1. Read Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983**

Attached at the end of this document. You should also study the guidance for observers, downloadable from <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/templates/search/document.cfm/17831>

## **2. Sign the 'Declaration by a Nominated Observer'**

Attached at the end of this document.

## **3. Provide a clear copy of one item of photographic identification**

This needs to be a legible copy of photo ID supplied by a government: Passport, driving license or ID card. The ID needs to confirm your name and age.

## **4. Provide a digital photo of yourself for use on your identification badge**

Send us a passport-style digital photograph of yourself either on CD or email it to [michael@openrightsgroup.org](mailto:michael@openrightsgroup.org)

## **5. Send it to us fast!**

Check our checklist, sign our declaration and send everything to us before Wednesday 4th April. We don't have much time before the election so please act now.

# Questions?

If you have any questions or queries then please contact ORG's e-voting campaigns co-ordinator, Jason Kitcat:

[jason@jasonkitcat.com](mailto:jason@jasonkitcat.com) Tel: 07956 886 508 Skype: jpkitcat

If Jason is unavailable and the matter is urgent please try either Michael Holloway, Operations Manager or Becky Hogge, Executive Director:

[michael@openrightsgroup.org](mailto:michael@openrightsgroup.org) Tel: 020 7096 1079

[becky@openrightsgroup.org](mailto:becky@openrightsgroup.org) Tel: 07967 331 184 Skype: becky\_hogge

# Checklist

Please tick the following and return this sheet back to us.

- I have read Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act
- I have signed and included the 'Declaration by a Nominated Observer'
- I have included a legible copy of photographic ID with my name and age
- I have included or emailed a digital photo of myself

Please provide the following information about yourself, it will only be used in relation to election observation:

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Skype name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home number: \_\_\_\_\_

Where you will be observing: \_\_\_\_\_

## Declaration

I declare that I will undertake my role as an Open Rights Group election observer to the best of my abilities. I will not use the access granted for personal, financial or political benefit. As a representative of the Open Rights Group I will treat all participants of the electoral process with respect and care. I will provide a report of my observations within two weeks of the election result being declared.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed forms to:

Michael Holloway, Open Rights Group, PO BOX 48872, London WC1H 9WR

Thank you!

# Declaration by a Nominated Observer

I have read and understood the Commission's 'Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations' and agree to abide by the Code.

I declare that I have been provided with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

I have not been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom in the five years previous to the date of this nomination. I have not been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of nomination.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Representation of the People Act 1983

The requirements in Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 help to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. They apply to all accredited observers at polling stations, the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers and the count. Section 66 is reproduced below in full, for use by observers.

## Requirement of secrecy

66. – (1) The following persons –

(a) every Returning Officer and every Presiding Officer or clerk attending at a polling station,

(b) every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending,

(c) every person so attending by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to –

(i) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station;

(ii) the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or

(iii) the official mark.

(2) Every person attending at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not –

(a) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper;

(b) communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

(3) No person shall –

(a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;

(b) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;

(c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter

in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;

(d) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted.

(4) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not –

(a) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or

(b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or

(c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or

(d) attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

(5) No person having undertaken to assist a blind voter to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other(3) No person shall –

(a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;

(b) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted; (c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;

(d) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted.

(4) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not –

(a) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or

(b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or

(c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or

(d) attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

(5) No person having undertaken to assist a blind voter to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.

(6) If a person acts in contravention of this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

(7) In their application in relation to an election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect with the insertion, after the words 'the candidate for whom', in each place where they occur, of ', or the registered political party towards the return of whose candidates,'.

(8) In relation to an election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election, any reference in this section to the return of a registered political party's candidates is a reference to the return of candidates included in the list of candidates submitted by the registered political party for the purposes of the election. unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.