

**This form must be handed to the Deputy Returning Officer/Electoral Officer in charge of the proceedings at the preliminary scrutiny or counting centre**

**Note:**

- A candidate may appoint up to two scrutineers who may be present at the same time during the counting of votes.
- A candidate in an election for the council (including a candidate who has already been declared elected) is not eligible for appointment as a scrutineer.

Please **PRINT** details on this form

### To the Returning Officer/Deputy Returning Officer/Electoral Officer for:

Name of Council

As a candidate contesting an election in the above named Council, I hereby appoint the following person to represent me during the scrutiny and count of ballot papers:

### Scrutineer Information

Surname

Given Names

Residential Address

Street

Suburb

Postcode

Contact Phone Number

Signature of Scrutineer

Date

### Candidate Information

Surname

Given Names

Contact Phone Number

Name of Election

Mayor

Area Councillor

Ward Councillor

Ward Name (if applicable)

Signature of Candidate

Date

# Protocol for Scrutineering

## 1. Purpose

This protocol is intended to guide:

- electoral officials in their dealings with scrutineers monitoring election processes;
- scrutineers in their role as a monitor of electoral proceedings.

## 2. Role of a Scrutineer

A scrutineer acts as an independent observer of electoral processes and does this, on behalf of a candidate, in order to verify that procedures undertaken by electoral officials are fair, proper, transparent and according to law. The intention is not to secure partisan advantage for a candidate.

## 3. Appointment

- A scrutineer must have written authority to represent a candidate.
- The authority must be in a format determined by the returning officer and be signed by the candidate.
- Scrutineers must present themselves to the officer-in-charge with the signed authority on arrival at the scrutiny location.

## 4. Expected Behaviour

It is expected that electoral officials, where permissible, will make every attempt to allow scrutineers to monitor activities involving manual and/or computer aided processes for the issuing, scrutiny, rejection and counting of ballot material and votes.

Scrutineers may verify that proper procedures are followed and challenge aspects of the voting and counting processes but must not be aware of any elector details or how an elector voted.

Scrutineers **must** address all queries to the officer-in-charge. That person must consider any request to count more slowly or display details of a particular ballot paper in the light of consequences to the count being completed within acceptable timeframes.

## 5. Unacceptable Behaviour

Electoral officials should not hinder a scrutineer from legitimately and quietly observing electoral processes in the premises in which they are working. However the Electoral Commission SA reserves the right to advise officers-in-charge of their capacity to request a scrutineer to vacate those premises if their behaviour is disorderly.

## 6. Electoral Offences

A scrutineer, acting on behalf of a candidate, is prohibited from undertaking activities contrary to fair electoral practice eg bribery, intimidation etc. Prescribed offences are outlined in the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* Part 12.

Such offences can place democratic electoral processes at risk. The office will request in writing a report on any apparent breach under the Act and, subject to advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office, will address the matter through appropriate legal channels.