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VOTER AND OBSERVER RIGHTS

As Coos County approaches another election cycle, please take a moment to become familiar with a few issues concerning rights and safety.

Voters have the right to:

Access official ballot boxes and election offices without interference.

Keep their vote private.

Vote without intimidation or threats.

Questions & Answers

- Can people block access to election offices or drop boxes?
 - NO (ORS 260.695)
- Can a person ask to see another persons' ballot or ask how they intend to vote at a drop box or election office?
 - NO (ORS 260.695)
- Is voter intimidation lawful?
 - NO (ORS 260.665)
- What might voter intimidation look like?
 - Aggressive or harassing questions about whether an individual is qualified to vote with the intent to interfere with their right to vote, scare them into voting a certain way or to intimidate them from voting, such as questions about their citizenship status, criminal record, residency, other personal information, or questions about how they intend to vote.
 - Targeted surveillance of particular voters or groups of voters, such as following or tracking voters, copying license plates, taking videos or photos with the intent to dissuade or obstruct them from voting.
 - False or misleading statements or accusations about voter fraud or related criminal penalties, designed to frighten them away from voting.
 - Verbal or physical threats, expressed or implied, meant to stop them from voting or to force them to vote for a particular candidate or measure.
 - Purposefully obstructing or interfering with their ability to vote.

- Can someone willfully deface, remove, alter or destroy a posted election notice, election equipment, supplies, break the seal or open any sealed package containing election supplies, or collect ballots within 100 ft. of any election office or official drop-site?
 - NO (ORS 260.695)

Additional Information

- For their safety, all Coos County election personnel have been instructed to **call 9-1-1 if they are followed or otherwise feel threatened** at any time while in performance of their job or while voting.
- **Anyone witnessing voter intimidation or any other unlawful activity is encouraged to report it to law enforcement.**
- Voter intimidation and election law violations can be reported to the **Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division** online at www.oregonVOTES.gov, by phone at (503) 986-1518 or by emailing elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov.
- If a voter reports to our office that they felt intimidated at a drop-site location, we will relay all provided information to the appropriate law enforcement.
- Violating ballot box prohibitions come with potential criminal and civil penalties. (ORS 260.993; 260.995)

Respectfully,



Julie Brecke
Coos County Clerk