Public Observation of Election Verification

SUMMARY

The League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWVMN) is recruiting ***nonpartisan observers*** for the Public Accuracy Test (PAT) and Post-Election Review (PER) in 2026. With our statewide membership and volunteers committed to building trust in elections, we aim to have trained observers in at least half of Minnesota's counties in addition to a number of cities that hold a PAT. Observers will gain a deeper understanding of Minnesota's election verification processes.

Observers must agree to LWVMN's code of conduct and attend a 1-hour training for the PAT and PER. By observing these critical election verification processes, we can counter attempts to discredit election results through an independent, statewide report on the accuracy and integrity of Minnesota's elections. You can learn more about the role of nonpartisan observers to support elections and how to get involved here.

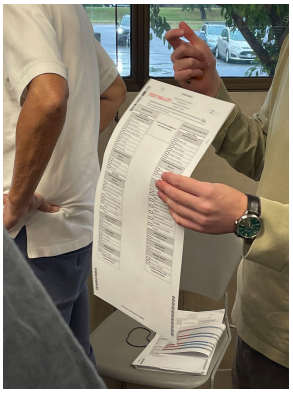
WHAT IS THE PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST (PAT)

Before every statewide election, local election officials test all equipment to be used in that election. Every county and city office that conducts elections must also hold a Public Accuracy Test (PAT). In order to test that the machines are reading votes properly, pre-marked ballots are fed into the ballot tabulators, and the machines' totals are compared with a spreadsheet of the pre-marked ballots. Optical scan precinct counters, assistive voting devices, and the central count scanner may all be tested as part of the PAT.

WHAT IS THE POST-ELECTION REVIEW (PER)

After every statewide election, randomly-selected precincts are hand-counted by election judges from different parties to confirm that they match the machine totals in what's called the Post-Election Review (PER). All discrepancies between the machine and hand-counts must be explained by the county election official, and the public is allowed to witness the entire process. Precincts are selected at the County Canvassing Board meeting proceeding the general election, and races included in the 2026 PER are U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and Governor.





(Observers of the 2022 PER in Dakota County & a Test Ballot for 2026 Primary PAT in Ramsey County)



OBSERVE WITH LWVMN!

At a time when misinformation, distrust, and polarization continue to challenge our democracy, LWVMN is **committed to helping Minnesotans better understand how elections work** and the **many safeguards already in place** to ensure votes are counted. We must educate communities about Minnesota's election safeguards by **observing key public elections meetings** and **building local relationships rooted in facts, transparency, and nonpartisanship**.

As a statewide organization dedicated to building trust in elections and having observed the PER since it began in 2006 with Citizens for Election Integrity MN (CEIMN), LWVMN is uniquely positioned to train nonpartisan observers and report our observations **to support accurate, transparent, and verifiable elections**. You can learn more about what to expect when observing the PAT from this blog written by LWV Park Rapids Area.

After signing up, you will **join a team of observers** either for the PAT and/or PER. Depending on local interest and your preference, we may ask you to observe in your community or travel to an adjacent county where we do not currently have observers. Each training will review the code of conduct and how to document the election verification process.

Lastly, LWVMN will host a statewide debrief and observers will be encouraged to submit letters to the editor and share their experience with elected officials. ***We hope you'll join us in 2026.***

Sign Up Below! *Questions? Contact Sam, sstreukens@lwvmn.org*

Public Accuracy Test (PAT): all LWVMN trainings complete! Please contact your local elections office to observe the PAT throughout the month of October.

Post-Election Review (PER):

Required training options, please choose one:

- Thursday, October 29, 4 - 5 pm, Zoom
- Thursday, November 5, 7 - 8 pm, Zoom
- Saturday, November 7, 10 - 11 am, Zoom
- PERs conducted November 12-17