

ELECTIONS – SCRUTINEERS

POLICY:

COPE Local 397 will permit a candidate scrutineer to be present at Executive Board Election ballot counting as per COPE Local 397 Constitution Article 14.13.

PURPOSE:

To allow either a Member or non-Member scrutineer to be present at the ballot count as requested by the candidate(s) with regulations as outlined in the Procedures section below.

PROCEDURE:

To ensure that the candidates are allowed a representative of their choice to be present at ballot counting time, subject to the following regulations:

- Candidate must notify the COPE Balloting Board Chair via email at the COPE Union Office's email address: cope397@sasktel.net five (5) business days prior to the date of the actual vote count taking place and provide the name of the Scrutineer to be in attendance.
- Only one (1) Scrutineer is allowed per candidate.
- Scrutineer is not limited to being a Member of COPE Local 397.
- A Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality Agreement must be signed by all Scrutineers.
- Electronic devices are not permitted in the ballot counting room.
 - Electronic devices include (but are not limited to) cell phones, cameras, blue tooth devices, or any other electronic device that may convey information to anyone located outside of the ballot counting room.
- The Balloting Board Chairperson will ensure that any and/or all electronic devices are turned off and deposited into a box that will be kept within the Ballot Board Chairperson's view in the same room where the ballot counting will occur.
 - The Scrutineer cannot leave the ballot counting room while the ballots are being counted.

- If the Scrutineer must leave, their electronic device will be returned to them with the understanding that they cannot return until the ballot counting is completed and an elected individual is declared.
- The Balloting Board Chairperson will remind the Scrutineers present that the Scrutineer has the right to question a ballot but cannot interfere with the ballot counting process.
- The Balloting Board Chairperson has the authority to eject a Scrutineer if they are interfering with the ballot counting process.
 - The Scrutineer is subject to COPE Local 397 Constitution Article 15 – Election Offences if that person is a COPE Local 397 member.
 - If the Scrutineer is a non-COPE Local 397 Member, action may be taken against that person under Article 15.1 (a) and (b), with the remedy determined by the Prairie Council.
- The Balloting Board Chairperson will, once all ballots are counted, return any electronic devices that were collected prior to the vote count taking place to the proper owner.
- The Balloting Board Chairperson will notify all candidates of the outcome after the ballot count has been completed regardless if they had a Scrutineer appointed or not.
 - Scrutineers will be allowed to notify the candidate they are representing if they were the successful candidate or not.
 - The Scrutineer shall NOT provide any specific count detail to the Candidate regarding the outcome of the election.
- If it is learned that the Scrutineer has divulged specific detail, the following rules will apply:
 - The Scrutineer is subject to COPE Local 397 Constitution Article 15 – Election Offences if that person is a COPE Local 397 member;
 - If the Scrutineer is a non-COPE Local 397 Member, action may be taken against that person under Article 15.1 (a) and (b), with the remedy determined by the Prairie Council.

Revised: September 2017

New: June 2017