

Scrutineers Rights and Responsibilities

In the 2019-2023 MUA Divisional Quadrennial Election, Scrutineers are asked to follow the following instructions so as to allow for the counting to progress in an orderly and timely way.

- Scrutineers should represent the interest of their candidate by observing procedures associated with the conduct of the election and the count.
- During the count a scrutineer may bring to the Returning Officer's attention any matter concerning:
 - The issue of ballot papers
 - The admission of envelopes to the count
 - The formality of ballot papers
 - The counting of votes

A scrutineer must not:

- Interrupt the count without lawful reason
 - Disclose any knowledge acquired by themselves concerning the votes of any particular voter or voters
 - Fail to carry out any lawful request by the Divisional Returning Officer's
 - Touch any ballot paper
 - Act in a manner which will interfere with the proper conduct of the election and the count.
 - Use an image or voice recording device in the Counting Room.
- If a scrutineer interrupts the count in a way that is outside the function they are expected to perform, the Divisional National Returning Officer may direct that person to leave the room where the count is being conducted.
 - No mobile phones are to be used in the tally room, which will be clearly marked. This is to ensure that the least disruption or distraction can occur and therefore maintain as much concentration and accuracy of the count as possible. Mobile phones must be kept on silent and phone calls should be kept until the end of each counting session.
 - Scrutineers may leave the tally room during the count but are asked to keep these departures or arrivals to a minimum to avoid disruption.
 - No cans, bottles or cups that may contain liquids are to be placed or kept on the counting table.

- Smoking will be permitted on the balcony adjacent to the Tally Room, provided the door remains closed, but only at times determined by the Returning Officers. This is again designed to keep any disruption to a minimum.
- Collection of ballot papers from the Unity Bank will commence at 9.00am to ensure availability for the commencement of counting at the MUA office at around 9.30am – 10.00am. Any scrutineer who wishes to attend the Unity Bank to observe the collection of the ballot materials should meet the Returning Officers at the MUA Divisional National Office at around 8.30am.
- Lunch breaks of not more than one hour in total will be dependent on the count, but will be taken at approximately 1pm. The count on any day will conclude at approximately 5pm, but may be extended to 6.00pm where circumstance dictate.