

Observation Log

A simple private record of what you saw, heard, or were told

Purpose:

Use this page to make a contemporaneous record while events are still fresh. Record what you know, separate it from what you think it means, and preserve how information reached you.

This is not an official election report. If something requires action, use the established reporting channel for your local election authority or, where safety is involved, the appropriate emergency or law-enforcement channel. **Log privately. Don't post.**

1. When and where?

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____
☐ Exact time ☐ Approximate *Specific place or context*

2. What happened?

Describe what you directly saw or heard. Stick to observable details where possible: who did what, what was said, what changed, what happened next.

3. What do I know directly — and what came from someone else?

☐ I observed this myself ☐ I was told this by someone else: Source if known: _____

- ☐ I spoke directly with this person
- ☐ I received a message/email/document
- ☐ I saw this reported elsewhere
- ☐ Source unknown or not yet confirmed

4. Who else was present?

Names, roles, or other identifying information **only when relevant and appropriate.**
Do not collect personal information simply because it is available.

5. Was there a change from what normally happens?

- ☐ No change noticed
- ☐ I don't know what normal procedure is
- ☐ Yes

What changed? _____

Was an explanation given? _____

- ☐ I verified the explanation ☐ I have not yet verified it

6. What have I checked?

Check before you carry info forward. What did you do to verify what happened? _____

Who or what did you check with? _____

7. What can I actually stand behind?

What I know: _____

What I think may be true, but have not established: _____

What I still do not know: _____

8. Log the route to credibility

If you later concluded that a claim was credible, record **why**.

Where did it originate? _____

What was independently checked? _____

What evidence or confirmation changed your confidence? _____

9. Did I report this through an established channel?

☐ No action needed ☐ Not yet ☐ Yes

Reported to: _____

Date/time: _____

Reference/case number, if provided: _____

10. Anything I need to correct or add later?

Do not rewrite the original entry. Date any additions or corrections.

Date/time of addition: _____

Three Civic Habits + Log It

1. **Hold yourself accountable.** Know what you can stand behind.

2. **Check before you carry.** Verify before repeating or acting.

3. **Watch the unannounced changes.** Notice when procedures, instructions, stories, or evidence shift without explanation.

+ **Log the route to credibility.** Preserve where a claim came from, what was checked, and why you trusted it.

The discipline: Log, don't post.

A contemporaneous private record can help establish what happened. A public feed can amplify uncertainty before the facts are known.

Our task is not to "defend democracy" as an abstraction. *It is to increase the number of places in which democratic behavior is still happening.*

Companion instrument: [Civic COLREGs](#) — Eight Rules for Navigating Corruption in Public Life, with [printable cards](#). More information: <https://transilience.org/civic/>