



Be a Poll Worker

Poll workers are on the front lines of helping people vote on Election Day. Encourage staff, volunteers, and constituents to facilitate democracy in your community by serving as poll workers.

Volunteer as a Poll Worker

Contact your local elections office directly for application information. Use our online “Voting in Your State” tool to learn more about poll worker requirements in your state and to find your local elections office.

Job Description

Poll workers ensure the conduct of fair and accurate elections. They set up and prepare the polling location, greet voters, verify registrants, and issue ballots. Poll workers demonstrate how voting equipment works and explain voting procedures. At the end of the day, they close the precinct and prepare materials for delivery to the elections office.

When to Apply

It is best to apply 1-3 months before the election. However, some areas with high needs continue to take applications up until the week before Election Day.

Hours and Pay

Compensation varies depending on the jurisdiction and duties, but poll workers generally receive stipends of around \$100 or more. It’s a long but rewarding day—shifts can last 12 hours or more, from before the polling site opens until after it closes (with occasional breaks). Some states do offer half day shifts.

Qualifications

Poll workers are generally required to be a registered voter in the precinct or county where they are serving. However, an increasing number of areas are developing programs that allow high school and college students to assist at the polls.

Poll Worker Training

Before Election Day, you will likely be required to attend a training session. Some jurisdictions offer online curriculum in lieu of, or to complement, in-person instruction. Training time is often compensated, conditional upon actual service on Election Day.

Remember Your Vote!

If you are not scheduled to work at your own polling place you should plan to request and cast an absentee ballot.

TRANSLATORS NEEDED!

In many areas, paid translators are needed to assist non-English speaking voters by translating voting information and answering voters’ questions. In some jurisdictions translators may be called upon to assist non-English and limited-English speaking voters in voting booths.

Resources

- “Voting in Your State” online tool, Nonprofit VOTE, www.nonprofitvote.org
- “Compendium of State Poll Worker Requirements”, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, www.eac.gov

Nonprofit VOTE is an official voter participation partner of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

