

# BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE



Election judges are temporary, paid employees of local election officials trained to handle all aspects of voting at the polling place. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections, and is a great service to the community.

## HOW TO APPLY

You can find out more by contacting your local city or county election office. Visit the “Become An Election Judge” webpage at [mnvotes.gov](http://mnvotes.gov) for links to some election jurisdictions’ application processes and more information about the subject. In an even year, you may also contact your political party before May 1. If your area is not listed on the webpage, complete the election judge interest form and email it to your county election office.

## WHO CAN APPLY

You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and able to read, write and speak English.

Some restrictions include:

- Relatives (spouse, parent, stepparent, child, step-child, sibling or stepsibling) cannot serve together in the same precinct at the same time.
- Relatives of candidates, and anyone who lives or stays in the same house as a candidate, cannot serve in the precinct where that candidate is on the ballot.
- Candidates cannot serve in a precinct where they are on the ballot.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TRAINEES

16 and 17-year-old students can work as election judge trainees, receive training, and be paid for their work while gaining a great experience for their résumés.

- You will not be asked to work past 10:00 p.m.
- You will be assigned the same duties as other judges, with the exception of tasks requiring party affiliation.
- You will need to attend and complete the same training as other judges.

## 2026 DATES

### VOTE EARLY:

June 26 – Aug. 10

### REGISTER IN ADVANCE:

by July 21

### PRIMARY ELECTION:

Tuesday, Aug. 11

### VOTE EARLY:

Sept. 18 – Nov. 2

### REGISTER IN ADVANCE:

by Oct. 13

### ELECTION DAY:

Tuesday, Nov. 3

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**Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State**

CALL: 1-877-600-VOTE | TEXT: 651-217-3862 | [mnvotes.gov](http://mnvotes.gov)

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To qualify, you must be 16 or 17 on or before Election Day, be a U.S. citizen in good academic standing at a Minnesota high school (or home schooled), and get permission from your parents and your school.

## PAY

You can choose to volunteer or be paid. Wages can vary by location and by experience. Student trainees must be paid no less than two-thirds of the minimum wage.

## WORK LOCATION & TIME COMMITMENT

**LOCATION:** Adults above 18 years old can serve as an election judge anywhere across Minnesota, so long as they can commit to the travel requirements. Trainees can serve in their own county of residence or any bordering county.

**TRAINING:** You must attend a required training that will be roughly two hours in length. Many classes are in the evenings.

**WORK DAYS:** Work days are the primary and general elections. A smaller work-force is usually needed for the primary. In some cases, you can ask to only work the general election in November.

**WORK DAY SCHEDULE:** A typical schedule on Election Day is from 6:00 a.m. to around 9:00 p.m. In some cases, you can ask to work a half-day.

## TIME OFF FROM WORK

Your employer is required to give you time off from work to be an election judge without a reduction in pay. To qualify, you must:

- Notify your employer in writing at least 20 days in advance of Election Day.
- Attach a copy of your schedule and pay rate form to your written notice.

You can also voluntarily take a vacation day and receive the judge salary as extra income. An employer cannot force you to take vacation or any other form of paid leave.



Scan this code to visit  
[mnvotes.gov](http://mnvotes.gov)  
for more information