ELECTION JUDGE INTEREST FORM

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

About Election Judges

Election judges (poll workers) are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out election procedures, and make sure that the rights of voters are protected. During a general election, there are more than 30,000 election judges who staff more than 4,100 precincts.

Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections, and is a great service to the community.

Requirements, Wages and Time Off From Work

- You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English.
- You must complete an election judge training course (at least two hours).
- Election judges can choose to volunteer or be paid. Wages vary by city.
- Employers are required to give employees time off to work as an election judge.

Student Election Judge Trainees

Junior and senior high school students can work as election judge trainees. The student must meet the following requirements:

- Ages 16 or 17.
- U.S. citizen in good academic standing at a Minnesota high school (or home schooled).
- Obtain school and parental permission.
- Serve in the county where they reside.
- Trainees are paid at least two-thirds of the minimum wage.

Like other judges, they do not have to serve the entire day; they cannot work past 10 p.m. Trainees are assigned the same duties as other judges, with the exception of tasks requiring party affiliation. Trainees do not designate party affiliation. Trainees must attend and complete the same training as other judges.

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Instructions

Before completing this form, check if your jurisdiction has an online application. Otherwise, complete this form and email it to your county auditor. Local election officials will contact you with additional application materials and instructions.

2026 Dates of Service

- Primary Election — Tuesday, August 11
- General Election — Tuesday, November 3
- Judges must complete a minimum of two hours of training — local jurisdictions may require more

Type of Judge

I'm interested in serving as an:

- ◯ Election Judge
- ◯ Election Judge Trainee (students ages 16-17)

Contact Information

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

Zip Code

Phone

Email

Party Affiliation (not applicable for high school student trainees)

- ◯ Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
- ◯ Republican Party
- ◯ I do not affiliate with any of the parties above

Second Language Fluency (optional)

- ☐ Hmong
- ☐ Somali
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Other: