

Information on the High School Student Judge Program

Any person interested in serving as a High School Student Judge must complete and submit an application and complete training. [Click here](#) to read or print the application form.

What is a High School Student Judge of Election?

A High School Student Judge of election is one of the officials responsible for the conduct of the election in the precinct polling place. Judges of election are the backbone of the electoral process. The job is challenging, interesting and a personally rewarding experience.

Qualifications of a High School Student Judge of Election

In order to qualify as a High School Student Judge, an applicant must:

1. Be a junior or senior in high school in good standing.
2. Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Be a U.S. citizen by Election Day.
4. Be able to speak, read and write the English language.
5. Successfully complete a 4-hour training session.
6. Be able to work on Election Day beginning at 5:30 a.m. until all duties are completed after the polls close.
7. Be recommended by his/her high school principal and a parent or guardian.

A High School Student Judge does not have to be 18 or a registered voter; however, those who will be 18 by Election Day (Feb. 2) are encouraged to register to vote. High School Student Judges who are registered to vote and who are assigned to work in a precinct other than their own should use Early Voting or Absentee Voting.

To obtain an application from the Board of Election Commissioners, call (312) 269-7984.

Number of Judges in Each Precinct

Five judges of election in each precinct are appointed. In odd-numbered precincts, there are three Republican judges and two Democratic judges. In even-numbered precincts, there are three Democratic judges and two republican judges. In precincts with large numbers of registered voters, additional judges may be appointed. Only one High School Student Judge per political party may be assigned to any precinct.

Instruction and Training

State election law requires judges of election to complete four hours of training in order to receive extra compensation when serving on Election Day.

A four-hour training session is held prior to each election. A High School Student Judge must attend and satisfactorily complete the course in order to serve on Election Day.

Printed instruction materials, including a Judge of Election Handbook, Study Guide and Quiz and training supplements are provided to all judges of election. Additionally, those who

complete the classroom training now will have access to an Internet training program so that they may revisit any area of instruction before Election Day. This web-based training program **cannot** be used as a substitute for classroom instruction.

Responsibilities of Judges of Election

High School Student Judges have the same responsibilities, duties and authorities as other election judges. These responsibilities and duties include:

1. Setting up voting equipment at 5 a.m. on Election Day;
2. Conducting a fair and impartial election in the precinct polling place from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
3. Tabulating the vote totals for the precinct after the polls close at 7 p.m.

Salary

A High School Student Judge is paid the same salary as other judges of election, which is \$120 for serving on Election Day. In addition, the student judge will receive an extra \$50 for attending the required classroom training session – but only if the judge also serves on Election Day.

Extra compensation is also paid to judges who:

- Pick up the Election Judge key envelope on either the Saturday or Sunday prior to Election Day;
- Allow the use of your cell phone by all judges within the polling place on Election Day;
- Return the election materials to a receiving station on election night (to be determined by all judges on Election Day.)