

College Student Judge Program

What is a College Student Judge of Election?

A college 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 for College Student Judges of Election

In order to qualify as a student judge, an applicant must:

1. Be a United States citizen;
2. Be able to read, write and speak English;
3. Successfully complete the 4-hour training program;
4. Be able to work on Election Day beginning at 5 a.m. until all duties are completed after the polls close;
5. Be a college student enrolled in and attending classes at a college or university in Cook County; and
6. Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale as verified by a college dean, department head or adviser.

Any person interested in serving as a college student judge must complete and submit [the application](#) and attend judge training.

College student judges should be registered to vote either at home or at their campus address. College students appointed as election judges should not be counted as absent from classes on the day of the election.

Number of Judges in Each Precinct

Five judges of election are appointed in each precinct. 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 a large number of registered voters, additional judges may be appointed.

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 college student judge must attend and satisfactorily complete the course in order to serve on Election Day.

Printed instructional materials, including a Judge of Election Handbook, exam and training supplements are provided to each judge of election. After attending classroom training, judges will also be able to go to an on-line training system before election day to revisit any questions they may have.

Responsibilities of Judges of Election

College student judges have equal 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 and transmitting them to Election Central after the polls close at 7 p.m.

Salary

A student judge is paid the same salary as other judges of election: \$170 only upon completion of training *and* service 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.)