

Poll Challenger / Election Judge Info Form

What does it mean to be a Poll Challenger?

Who can be a poll challenger?

- An election judge
- An eligible voter from the same precinct as the voter being challenged
- An appointed challenger (see more below)
- Major political parties or non-partisan candidates can appoint voters who are residents of Minnesota from that party to act as challengers.
- Only one challenger may be present in a polling place on behalf of a major political party, nonpartisan candidate, or ballot question at any time.

What is the challenger's role? “The only action a challenger may take is to contest a voter’s eligibility, if and only if they have personal knowledge of that voter’s ineligibility. Suspicion is not a basis for making a challenge. The challenger must personally know that a specific person is not eligible to vote for a specific reason.” (from sos.state.mn.us)

Poll challengers are volunteers – they are not paid and they do not get paid time off from work.

What does it mean to be an Election Judge?

*Past election judges **must re-register** for 2024 elections!*

Election Judges help enforce election law by guaranteeing that the rights of legal voters are protected on Election Day and are responsible for the administration of election procedures in voting locations.

Are Election Judges Paid? Yes. Amount of pay is set by the city or township. Election Judges may be eligible for additional compensation from their employer.

Election Judges may work all day (6:00AM - 10:00PM+) or part of the day at the discretion of the city or township.

Election Judges **must be re-trained and recertified every two years.**

Election Judge Duties include opening and closing polling places, registering new voters at the polling location, distributing ballots, protecting voter privacy, and calculating and certifying results.

Election Judge Qualifications:

- Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English.
- Must complete an election judge training course (at least two hours).
- Cannot be the spouse, parent, child, or sibling (including stepparent, stepchild, or stepsibling) of any election judge serving in the same precinct or of any candidate at that election.
- Cannot be domiciled, either permanently or temporarily, with any candidate on the ballot
- Cannot be a candidate at that election.
- Cannot be related to another election judge in the same precinct, unless they serve on separate shifts that do not run concurrently.
- 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.

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