

Poll Worker Frequently Asked Questions

If I sign up, am I obligated to be a poll worker?

No, signing up puts you on a list to be contacted by your board of elections to see if you are qualified and provide more information. You will then need to attend a training session. Finally, you will be assigned a polling location to work on Election Day. If you are sick on Election Day, please contact the county board of elections ASAP.

How much will I be paid?

The average poll worker earns around \$100 to \$150, including paid training. You could earn up to \$200 depending on the county and position.

Is there training?

Yes, about three hours with classes during the week, weeknights, and weekends.

How long do I work on Election Day?

Poll workers report around 5:30 am to ready the polls for 6:30 am opening and stay until after the polls close at 7:30 pm. There are breaks and you are not required to stand on your feet all day. There are no partial shifts available.

Is it safe to serve as a poll worker?

All polling places will be equipped with personal protection equipment (PPE) for poll workers, social distancing requirements, and following ODH and CDC guidelines. Poll workers will help voters line up, check in, and use the voting machines, but will also remind voters about hand sanitizer, bathrooms to wash hands, wearing masks, etc.

Do I have to wear a mask?

Yes, masks are not just to protect you, but the hundreds of voters from your community that are making their voice heard. **Even if I'm not sick?** Yes. You can take a break and take your mask off away from others but you must wear one while working the polls and helping voters.

How do I get continued education credit?

Certain professions (lawyers, CPAs, etc.) are eligible to receive required continued education or continued learning credits for working a day at the polls. You must include your association number (attorney number for example) to the county board when you sign up and sign in on Election Day. The board will then send the confirmation to your association to receive the credits.

Your association or county board of elections will have more information.

How do I get extra credit for my school?

Ask your school or teacher if this is possible. If not, request that they contact the Ohio Secretary of State's office or view our toolkit [here](#).

If so, your county board of elections can provide verification that you attended the training and worked on Election Day.

Am I old enough to be a poll worker?

In Ohio, 17-year-old seniors in high school can serve as poll workers, even though they cannot vote. This is called the "Youth at the Booth" program.

If you are not yet 17 years old, you can still help defend democracy and possibly earn school credit. Please contact your county board of elections for unpaid volunteer opportunities such as line management, cleaning voting machines, or assisting election officials.