

Student Election Judge

2009 Program Description

Introduction

Since its inception in 2000, the Student Election Judges Program has been a great success for county election officials, educators and students who have participated in the program. In the 2008 election hundreds of students around the state participated in the program working hand in hand with adult Election Judges setting up the polling location, processing voters and tallying the votes cast. The Student Judge experience has raised the consciousness of the students who participate in the election process and it enables them to earn money for working Election Day. The program also helps ensure that Colorado Election Officials have sufficient Election Judges to serve the needs of the voting public. Ultimately, we hope it motivates these students to become active voters in their communities and election judge resources for future elections.



Statute and Policy

The State Legislature has enacted legislation that will allow Juniors and Seniors in High School to work at polling places as Student Election Judges. State Statute makes the following provisions:

- Student Election Judges need not be registered electors.
- Upon approval by their school's principal or an administrator designated by the principal, Student Election Judges will be appointed by and will serve at the discretion of the local Election Official. School administrators must determine that selected students can reasonably miss school on Election Day.
- Students should have their own transportation to the Polling Place, or must assure the Election Official that they will be dropped off at the Polling Place by 6:00 a.m. and picked up when the Election Day's work is complete (approximately 8:00 p.m.).
- Student Election Judges will assist in checking-in voters at the polling places, activating voting machines, and assisting electors in casting their ballots.
- Veteran Election Judges will supervise student Election Judges.
- Student Election Judges will be compensated for working Election Day. Additionally they may receive payment for attending the mandatory Election Judge Class.
- Student Election Judges can serve as mail-in, mail ballot or early voting judges.
- There are no party affiliation requirements for Student Election Judges.

Qualifications

Student Election Judges must meet the following qualifications.

- Be U.S. citizens by the date of the election at which they are scheduled to work.
- Be willing to serve – knowing that Election Day runs from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Be physically and mentally able to perform the duties of an Election Judge.
- Attend a mandatory Election Judge class prior to each election at which they work.
- Never have been convicted of election fraud, other election offenses or fraud.
- Not be related to any candidate on the ballot in the precinct where they are working.
- Be at least 16 years old and a Junior or Senior "in good standing" at a public private high school at the time of the election at which they plan to work. Home schooled students are welcome as well.
- Have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

Interested? Download our student election judge form at

< http://www.elections.colorado.gov/WWW/default/Outreach%20and%20Education/2009_student_judges/student_brochure_II.pdf >