

**What does it mean to be an Election Judge?**  
*Past election judges must re-register for 2026 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.

**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](http://sos.state.mn.us))

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