

Learn more about signing up to be a poll worker in your community!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do people register to serve as a poll worker?

1. Visit your local clerk website, contact them via phone or email and express your interest in becoming a poll worker. They will follow up with more information.
2. Visit the Secretary of State's Michigan Voter Information Center website:
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/pollworker#BecomeAPollWorker>

What is a poll worker? Poll workers (aka election inspectors) are hired, trained and paid by local clerks to help run elections, from the early voting period through the end of Election Day.

What do poll workers do? Poll workers are temporary citizen support staff who assist city and township clerks in running polling place operations – from opening on time, managing check-in and answering voter questions to assisting with voting processes and more to ensure elections run efficiently, smoothly and securely.

Why are poll workers needed? Democracy depends on well-run elections. City and township clerks are the leaders of our elections process but must “staff up” during the election season in order to have enough people to efficiently run early voting and Election Day operations.

Clerks do not consistently have enough poll workers and that is why we created the Support MI Clerks program.

When does Michigan need more poll workers? Michigan needs more workers for both the early voting period and Election Day, especially because early voting expands staffing needs. Training typically happens well in advance of these election periods.

Are poll workers paid? Yes. Michigan poll workers are paid by their city or township clerk, and pay rates vary by jurisdiction, which can pay as much as \$300 per day.

Do I need experience? No prior experience needed.



Do poll workers receive training? Yes. If hired, election inspectors receive official training from a local or county clerk. Other training programs offered by outside groups are generally targeted at recruiting “poll challengers,” a partisan observation role that does not actually administer elections.

When does the training period begin? The training period varies from county to county, ranging from three weeks to a month before election day.

Who can become a poll worker in Michigan? You must be a registered voter in Michigan if you are 18 or older. Individuals aged 16 – 17 must simply be a Michigan resident. Poll workers cannot also be a poll challenger, candidate for office, member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Those convicted of a felony or an election crime are ineligible.

What is the time commitment? Depending on the city or township, election Inspectors may work half the day and may even work from open to close if desired (6 a.m. until approximately 10 p.m.).

How are poll workers paid? Poll workers will receive paychecks ranging from election day (like in Jackson County) to several weeks later (like in Wayne County).

What is the difference between a “poll worker” and an “election inspector”? While there are many job titles in the world of elections, “poll worker” and “election inspector” mean the same thing – paid volunteers who are trained by and work for the local government clerks to administer our elections.

Is a poll worker the same as a poll watcher or challenger? No. Poll workers temporarily serve city or township clerks to help administer safe and efficient voting. In contrast, poll watchers/challengers represent partisan political parties to independently observe the voting process.

LEARN HOW TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Interested in helping Michigan’s city and township clerks protect democracy by administering safe, secure and efficient voting? Visit supportmiclerks.com today to learn more and find out how you can serve as a volunteer (and often paid) poll worker today!

