

Students Serve at the Polls

Precinct Election Pages

Students who are not eligible to vote or who only wish to participate for a portion of the day may serve as Election Pages.

- Students must be US/VA Government students.
- Students must have the written permission of their parents (if under 18).
- Students must be recommended by his/her government teacher or home school advisor.

Election Pages...

- are required to work from 5:00 AM to 12 noon OR from 12 PM to 7:00 PM
- will assist Precinct Election Officers with various tasks, including setting up the polling place, directing voters, assisting elderly and disabled voters and distributing information. Pages may not check names, operate voting machines or tally results, but may observe.
- are required to attend a training class.
- are required to subscribe to the Election Page Oath administered by the Chief Election Officer.
- do not represent a political party.
- do not receive compensation for serving.

Precinct Election Officers

Students who will be 18 years old on or before Election Day, and have registered to vote on or before the registration deadline, are eligible to serve as Precinct Election Officers.

Precinct Election Officers ...

- are required to work the entire day from 5 AM to 9 PM (or possibly later).
- are legally responsible for the conduct of the election, including checking names and ID's, operating voting machines and ascertaining results.
- are required to attend training classes.
- are required to subscribe to the Constitutional Oath prior to Election Day.
- are required to subscribe to the Precinct Election Officer Oath administered by the Chief Election Officer before the polls open on election morning.
- must choose to represent the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or be Independent.
- are paid \$110 for Election Day.

All Participants ...

- will serve under the direct supervision of the Chief Election Officers in the precinct.
- must be strictly impartial at all times, not discussing politics, candidates or issues.
- must arrive on time and may not leave the polling place during his/her shift.
- are expected to dress appropriately – no jeans, shorts, sweats, t-shirts, etc.
- are expected to use appropriate language and behavior at all times.
- are expected to work, not visit, with friends, family and neighbors.

Parents and Teachers

The Electoral Board will not accept application requests directly from students or from parents on behalf of their child for participation in this program. The Electoral Board can only accept students applications submitted through their high school government/social studies teachers. We encourage students and parents to contact their government/social studies teacher if they are interested in participating in this program.

The Electoral Board will attempt to assign students to polling places near their homes and high schools. No more than two students will be assigned for each shift at each polling place. The Electoral Board will provide the school/teachers with a list of participants and number of hours worked so that they may award classroom credit as appropriate. Students, whether serving as election pages or election officers, must attend the appropriate training classes in order to qualify for assignment and credit in this program.

The Electoral Board will attempt to accommodate those parents who wish to serve as election officers in the precincts at which their children have been assigned. However, we cannot guarantee that those assignments are available. Parents who are considering serving as election officers must be registered to vote in Virginia on or before the voter registration deadline for the November General Election and must attend precinct election officer training classes.

The Electoral Board will also prepare press releases for the local newspapers and media to publicize the student participation.

NOTE: Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, working toward their Eagle and Gold awards, may also be able to fulfill some of their merit badge requirements by participating in this program.