



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Chicago High School Student Election Judge

1. **When is the next election?** Next is the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. In 2027, there will be two additional elections, including the Chicago Municipal/Aldermanic Election on Tuesday, February 23 and, if needed, a Supplemental Municipal Runoff Election on Tuesday, April 6.
2. **What is new this election?** If you serve on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, you will be asked to serve again on Tuesday, February 23, 2027 and Tuesday, April 6, 2027 (if needed), without having to re-apply.
3. **What is the High School Student Election Judge Program?** Through the High School Student Election Judge Program, roughly 1,500 high school students from over 126 schools learn about the voting process and serve as Election Judges at polling places across the City of Chicago each Election Day. Like adults, students are paid for their training and Election Day services. For elections that fall during a school day, students receive a full-day excused absence per Illinois law, if the day isn't already a school holiday.
4. **What is an Election Judge?** Election Judges are paid to manage the precinct polling place and assist voters. The job is challenging and rewarding. Election Judges share these responsibilities:
 - a. Arrive at 5:00 a.m. at the assigned polling place location before the polls open on Election Day to set up equipment and all necessary materials
 - b. Open the polls on time at 6:00 a.m. on Election Day
 - c. Issue the correct ballots to each voter and help voters with registration and other questions, from 6:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.
 - d. Complete all reports after the polls close, which are usually completed by 8:30 p.m., sometimes later
5. **Can I serve as a High School Student Election Judge?** To serve as a High School Student Election Judge, you must:
 - a. Be a current high school junior or senior
 - b. Have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - c. Live in Cook County



- d. Be a U.S. citizen by Election Day
- e. Be able to read, write and speak English
- f. Submit a parental/guardian consent form (see #6b)
- g. Submit a principal consent form (see #6c)

6. How do I apply? How do I serve? To apply, you must:

- a. On a laptop or desktop computer, go to pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and fill out the High School Student Judge of Election application
- b. After you complete the application, log in at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and have a parent/guardian complete and sign the Parent/Guardian Consent Form under the “Consent Form” tab – form due Tuesday, **September 29, 2026**. (see #19)
- c. Be approved by your principal to serve – form due Tuesday, **October 6, 2026**. (see #20)
- d. Complete in-person training (see #9)
- e. Serve at your assigned polling place location on Election Day from 5:00 a.m. to roughly 8:30 p.m., sometimes later

7. I applied as a bilingual High School Student Election Judge. What is my next step?

Chicago Board of Elections (Board) staff will reach out to you by phone or email to confirm that you speak the language. It is important that you answer calls from the Board and/or respond to emails to secure a polling place location for Election Day.

8. How can I add this work experience to my resume? Check out Mikva’s template [HERE!](#)

9. How do I complete the training? High School Student Election Judge applicants will complete paid in-person training provided by the Chicago Board of Elections. Training will be held at Block 37 (109 N Dearborn St, Chicago). Registration for training at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov will be available in early September and training will begin in late September. You will not receive payment for training if you attend but don’t serve on Election Day.

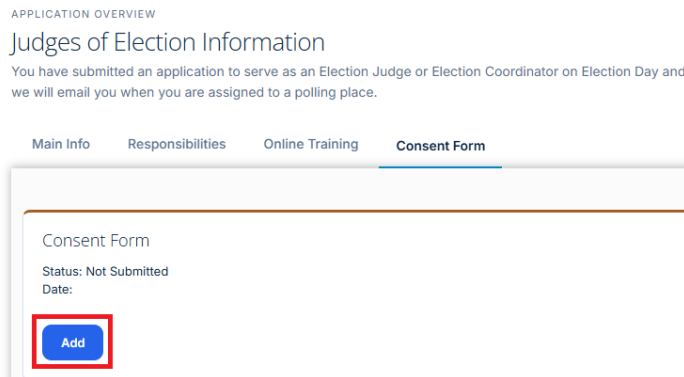
10. How much do I get paid? Payment is \$170 for serving on Election Day and \$60 for completing an in-person training. You will not receive payment for training if you attend but don’t serve on Election Day.



11. **When do I get paid?** You must serve on Election Day to be paid. Payment is completed and issued by the Chicago Board of Elections (Board) and will be sent to the mailing address you entered on the Election Judge pay voucher (pink) on Election Day. It may take six to eight weeks after Election Day to receive your check. If you have still not received it at that point, please call the Board at 312-269-7985 or email hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov.
12. **Why do I need to submit a W-4 federal tax form?** To receive compensation for serving on Election Day, you must submit a W-4 federal tax form to the Chicago Board of Elections (Board). If you have already submitted a W-4 form in 2024 or beginning of 2026, you will not need to submit a new W-4 form unless there are changes to your name, address or requested by the Board.
13. **When do I need to submit a W-4 federal tax form?** Submit a W-4 form prior to working on Election Day. [Click here for instructions on how to submit a W-4 form to the Board.](#)
14. **When do I find out which polling place location I am assigned to?** You will be assigned once your application is approved and a polling place location is available. You will be able to review your assignment at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov. If you applied as a bilingual Chicago Election Judge, those assignments will take longer to complete since the Chicago Board of Elections has to verify if you speak the specified language by phone or email. You will also receive a letter in the mail at the address you provided on the online application with polling place assignment information approximately 10 days prior to Election Day. (Polling place subject to change).
15. **Where can I update my contact information if needed?** You can email the Chicago Board of Elections at hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov or call 312-269-7985.
16. **How do I look up precincts?** This [map](#) is interactive and will be the easiest to navigate.
17. **Do I still need a parent/guardian to sign the consent form if I am 18 or over?** Yes. You need parental or guardian approval to be a High School Student Election Judge, regardless of age.
18. **What if I fail to submit the parental/guardian consent form?** You will be ineligible to serve as a High School Student Election Judge. Remember to submit your parental consent form by Tuesday, **September 29, 2026**.



19. Where is the parental consent form? The consent form is on your pollworker.chicagoelections.gov dashboard. It's on the last tab labeled "Consent Form" and has a blue button that makes it pop up when you click it. Check out this screenshot:



20. Who will submit the principal consent form? The Chicago Board of Elections (Board) will work directly with your principal to obtain a signature on the principal consent form. If we are unable to reach your principal, we will ask for your assistance in obtaining their signature and submitting it to the Board by email. The principal consent form will be due by Tuesday, **October 6, 2026**.

21. I forgot my password and can't log back in! Go to pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and enter your email. Click login. Then click "forgot password" and follow instructions.

22. I have a question that is not on this list – what do I do? Email the Chicago Board of Elections at hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov or call 312-269-7985.