



Strengthen Local Democracy: Serve as an Election Judge

The Clerk's office needs community members to serve as election judges in *suburban* Cook County. Election judges are an essential part of the democratic process who make sure fellow voters can cast their ballots. Election judges assist voters and work with their fellow judges to ensure the polling place runs smoothly. Below is a brief rundown of the position and its requirements.

What are the general requirements? Be a U.S. citizen. Be either a registered voter or a college student or a high school junior or senior with a 3.0 GPA.

How much does it pay? Election judges are paid \$190 to complete hands-on and online training, set up a polling place and serve on Election Day.

What are the training requirements for new Election Judges? Election judges are required to take a hands-on training class that lasts roughly 3.5 hours. They must pass an open-book test at the end of the class. Election judges are also required to take an online training that they can complete on their own schedule; it takes about 1.5-2 hours to complete.

When and where are the trainings? Trainings will take place in the weeks leading up to the election. Trainings are held throughout suburban Cook County and offered in the afternoon, evening and on weekends.

How do I select my training? After applying, applicants will receive login instructions for our online portal where all the available trainings will be posted. Judges choose the dates and times they want to attend training.

What are the Election Day requirements? On Election Day, polling places are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. However judges work together from 5 a.m. until the polls have closed and the polling place has been broken down, the election results have been transmitted to the Clerk's office, and all the election materials have been properly packed away. Most polling places complete the process by 8 or 8:30 p.m.

Please note: Judges are also required to set up their polling place before Election Day with their fellow judges and EM at an agreed-upon time. Typically this is done the Monday night before the election but is sometimes done during the day on Monday or the weekend before election.

Where will I be assigned? We try to place judges as close to home as possible but we cannot always accommodate specific precinct requests. In the rare event that a judge is needed to work outside of their home township, they will be asked in advance whether this is possible.

Do I have to select a party? While Illinoisans do not register by party, state law requires election judges to designate Republican or Democrat to ensure a bipartisan balance. On Election Day, judges work together as a team regardless of party.

Call 312.603.0970 with additional questions