

25 QUESTIONS TO ASK AT YOUR POLL WORKER TRAINING

Your official poll worker training is a critical step towards becoming a poll worker. Your local elections office will offer training (in person, online, and/or hybrid) to make sure you understand the applicable laws in your jurisdiction and procedures you need to follow.

Below is a list of important topics to listen for during your poll worker training. If any of these topics are not addressed during your training, you can ask your election administrator. We hope these questions will help ensure you know what to expect and feel fully prepared for your service as a poll worker.

- 1 Who's in charge at my polling location? Who do I report to? Will I have their contact information? Will you (the trainer) be at my polling location?
- 2 What time do I arrive at the polls? What time will I likely be done for the day?
- 3 Do I get a break? Will I be expected to stand and/or sit for long periods of time?
- 4 What can I bring with me to make sure I'm ready for a long day? (Ex: Can I bring snacks, water, a book, my phone?)
- 5 Will I be able to vote on Election Day or should I vote early/absentee?
- 6 What do I need to know about setting up the polling place in the morning — including voting machines and other supplies/technology (like poll books)? Who do I call if we can't figure something out?
- 7 Who do I call if a polling machine malfunctions or stops working?
- 8 What do I do if there is a shortage of supplies or some other unforeseen occurrence (run out of ballots, power goes out, wifi doesn't work, etc)?
- 9 What type of assistance may I provide to ensure access to vote if someone has a disability? What is the process for me (or someone else) to provide assistance? Are there any limitations on the assistance a poll worker can offer?
- 10 What type of assistance can be offered to a voter who speaks another language or is having difficulty communicating with me in English? What is the process for me (or someone else) to provide assistance? Are there any limitations on the assistance a poll worker can offer?
- 11 What kind of accessible voting machines will we have on site for voters with disabilities, and how do they work?

- 12 What kind of identification, if any, is required in our community to vote? If my state requires voters to show an ID, what do I do if someone does not have the type of ID that's required?
- 13 What are the rules for provisional or affidavit ballots?
- 14 What do I do if someone brings their mail ballot to the polls, or the poll book says they were sent one?
- 15 What do I do if a voter is at the wrong precinct or polling location? If they don't have transportation to the correct location, what do I do?
- 16 What do I do if there is a long line, especially if this is close to when the polls close? How do we know who the last voter in line is?
- 17 What is being done to keep poll workers and voters safe at the polls?
- 18 What do I do if a voter, poll watcher, or fellow poll worker is threatening or intimidating myself, other poll workers, or voters at the polling location? Who should I alert and how?
- 19 Who else is allowed at the polling location besides poll workers and voters, and what can they do?
- 20 Are people allowed to wear clothing, buttons, or stickers supporting a particular candidate, cause, or issue while inside the polling place?
- 21 What are the rules for poll watchers/observers/monitors? What hotline/person can I call if there is an issue at my polling location related to a poll watcher/observer/monitor or someone claiming to be one?
- 22 What do I do if someone questions a voter's eligibility?
- 23 What are my responsibilities at the end of my shift and/or at the end of voting hours? How long do I need to stay?
- 24 Are there rules around people taking pictures or video inside the polling place? What are the rules about social media during my shift?
- 25 Who can I contact if I have other questions before and/or during my poll worker shift?

Thanks for powering the polls and being such an incredibly prepared poll worker!

www.powerthepolls.org / www.allvotingislocal.org

Note: These are supplemental resources and are not intended to take the place of any official poll worker training or resources that your elections office provides. Rules and laws vary from place to place, so for any specific questions related to your service as a poll worker or the rules and resources in your jurisdiction, always defer to your local elections office.