

Support youth civic engagement.

**Encourage your students
to become poll workers.**



In 2006, Ohio passed a law stating high school seniors who are at least 17 years of age and a U.S. citizen may be excused from school for one day to allow them to serve as poll workers.

Why should teachers encourage their students to volunteer to be poll workers?

Provides hands-on learning. Volunteering at the Board of Elections will give students an up close glimpse into the democratic process and will educate them on how elections are run in Ohio.

Fosters civic involvement. Becoming a poll worker may set the groundwork for students to continue to be socially active as they enter adulthood. By gaining hands-on experience as a civic leader, young people may choose to continue to serve as poll workers or branch out into other areas of civic life.

Improves the elections process. A greater breadth of poll workers will help to alleviate the current shortage of people willing to work the polls. In addition, young people may add more knowledge of new voting technology as the state continues to implement changes.

Promotes community. If community members see that young people are active participants in civic life, adults will begin to recognize that young people do make a difference in their community. If different generations work closely, it may help to bridge gaps between adults and youth.

If you are interested in bringing student poll workers to your community, contact your local Board of Elections to find out its policy on student poll workers and tell them you're interested. To find your local Board, go to the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us.

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