



Primary Election 2026 Poll Worker FAQ

Lake County Board of Elections and Registration

1.) “What do poll workers do?”

Poll workers process the voters, on a precinct level, on Election Day. There are three main roles: (1) Inspector, (2) Judge, and (3) Clerk.

- Inspector - Picks up election supplies, oversees the precinct, administers the oath, returns election supplies when the polls close (IC 3-10-1-31.1).
- Judge - Assists the inspector in making decisions, sets up and provides instructions to all voters on how to use the voting machines, Republican Judge returns the supplies with Inspector. They do not have to ride in the same vehicle, but it is mandatory for the Republican Judge to return the equipment if they want to be paid for their service. (IC 3-11-3-10(d) & IC 3-6-6-25)
- Clerk - Asks voters to provide photo ID and processes voters on the PollPad.

2.) “Who can be a poll worker?”

Poll workers are nominated by the county chairpersons of the two major political parties. Poll workers must be voters of the county. Students, 16 or 17 years of age, may serve as poll workers (Judges & Clerks only) with a completed student form and required permission signatures. Please refer to the LCBER website for further qualifications.

3.) “Who sets up the polling location?”

The Inspector calls all of the workers listed in the Inspector Kit to invite them to assist and observe in the set up of the poll location. This call is typically made on the Saturday or Sunday before Election Day. Set up is typically done on Monday. This is not about needing assistance. This is about bipartisanship.

4.) “Can I leave the polling location on Election Day?”

No. Poll workers must remain in the polling location for the entire day. Please make arrangements for your meals and whatever you may need for the entire day. Poll workers should utilize Early Voting methods.

5.) “Who do I call if there is a problem?”

Call the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration Office at (219) 755-3795 for further instructions. For voting machine issues, please contact your closest mechanic on the Mechanic List in the Inspector Kit.

6.) “Who can enter polling locations?”

The voters (only if they are voting), minor children accompanying the voter, poll workers, and those with written credentials are allowed. Precinct Committeepersons without credentials are not allowed in the polling location unless they are voting. No other persons should assist with any processes, including setting up or breaking down the equipment or moving tables, etc.

(SEE REVERSE)

7.) "How many copies of the tally sheets (receipts) are printed & where do they go?"

Three copies of the vote totals are printed after the close of the polls (Remember: one red tally card for each machine). The original copy must be printed and returned with the election supplies to the LCBER, one copy is for the Democrat Party designee and one copy is for the Republican Party designee.

8.) "How much do poll workers get paid and when do I get paid?"

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|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Inspectors (Democrat pursuant to IC 3-6-6-8) | \$210 + \$30 (Training) | (Meal Allowance is included in total) |
| • Judges* | \$145 + \$30 (Training) | |
| • Clerks | \$145 + \$30 (Training) | |

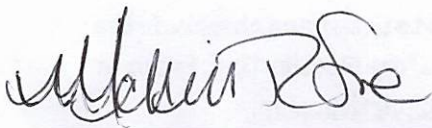
*Republican Judges earn an additional \$25 when they return the equipment at the close of the polling location with the Inspector. (IC 3-11-3-10(d) & IC 3-6-6-25)

Poll Workers can expect to get paid approximately 5-6 weeks after Election Day.

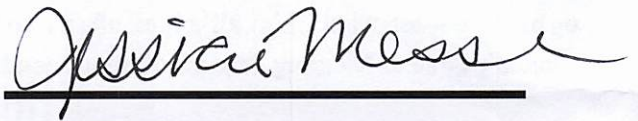
9.) "How important are poll workers?"

They are the front line defenders of the electoral process on Election Day. This is one of the most important jobs during the election and quite simply, we could not process an election without this valuable part of the Election Day team!

Thank you for your service!



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