

People with Disabilities Belong at the Polls: Becoming a Poll Worker

Teams of people work together at every polling place to make elections happen. When people with disabilities join the team, they enrich everyone's experience. This fact sheet will help you learn if being a poll worker matches your skills and interests.

It is important for people with disabilities to be poll workers:

- to make other people with disabilities feel welcomed and included.
- to help others feel more comfortable using an accessible voting machine.
- to help other poll workers be more knowledgeable and accommodating.
- to help others see people with disabilities as part of the voting community.
- to experience how the election process works and to ensure best practices.
- to ensure the polling place is sensitive to people with hidden disabilities.
- to share firsthand experience about issues that impact people with disabilities.

What do poll workers do?

- Show up on time for their shifts.
- Set up and clean up the polling place.
- Maintain a safe and orderly polling place.
- Greet voters and confirm they are at the correct polling place.
- Check voters' photo IDs and have them sign the poll book.
- Offer voters a paper or electronic ballot.
- Assist voters who don't speak English.
- Help voters with curbside voting.
- Process absentee ballots as necessary.
- Update voter registrations and register new voters.
- Assist voters with the use of the accessible voting machine.



What are the requirements for becoming a poll worker?

- Must be a United States citizen.
- 18 years or older (except for high school student poll workers).
- Read and write in English.
- Not be a candidate on the ballot at that polling place.
- Have lived in the county for 28 days in a row.
- Be registered to vote.

Visit www.DisabilityVote.org for resources related to the disability vote and call the DRW Voter Hotline for help at 844-DIS-VOTE (347-8683)

You can be a poll worker anywhere in the county you live in. Start with applying to your municipality (city, town, village). If your municipality does not have openings, you can contact the County Clerk for opportunities in other locations.

When and where should you sign up?

- Don't wait until the election to sign up. The sooner, the better!
- There are several ways to indicate your interest in becoming a poll worker:
 1. Contact your local clerk. Find your clerk at MyVote.Wi.gov/EN-US/My-Municipal-Clerk
 2. Use the following link: MyVote.Wi.gov/EN-US/Become-PollWorker
 3. Sign up at www.PowerThePolls.org/LWVWI

What happens after being selected to be a poll worker?

- You must complete in-person or virtual training. Check with your clerk about specific training requirements.
- Every team has a leader at the polling place to help with questions.
- You can request accommodations such as split shifts, more frequent breaks, a specific job such as greeter, visual aids or job aids, etc.
- Wisconsin law requires every employer to give time off to an employee who serves as a poll worker if the employee gives seven days' notice.

Poll workers are paid, but you can choose to volunteer. The pay varies based on your location.

Still not sure? Try being an observer first to see how your polling place works. Make a note of all the jobs going on when you are there.



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The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

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www.DisabilityVote.org



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