

Election Day Programs for High School Students



School is normally not in session on Election Day in November, so here is a great opportunity to make Election Day a Community Service Day!

If you are a student at least 16 years old, you can participate in Loudoun County's elections by serving as a volunteer Election Page.

The Virginia General Assembly established this program in 2000 to encourage student interest in voting and provide students with opportunities to help senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The program has been very successful, with many students participating in all areas of Loudoun County. Election Pages make life a little easier for the Officers of Election at the voting precinct and are welcomed as valuable team members.

Also, if you are 18 years old or will be 18 on the day of the November election, and you have registered to vote, you may choose to serve as a paid Officer of Election.



Election Pages

The Loudoun County Electoral Board encourages interested high school students (age 16 and older) to serve as Election Pages. The program combines community service with an opportunity to observe democracy in action. Students who are bilingual or have sign language skills are especially valuable.

Participating students are placed according to home addresses into neighborhood precincts and usually work in pairs. Suggested hours are 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. However, a shorter shift (minimum of three hours) can be arranged.

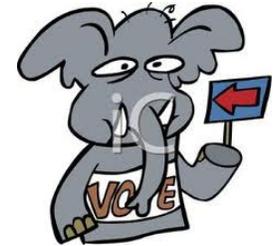
Upon completion of service, the Electoral Board presents each Election Page with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Letter of Recommendation. Service may be applicable for classroom or merit-badge credit.

Duties

- Greet and direct voters to the polling area.
- Be sure voters in line are at the correct precinct by looking up names on the handheld Palm Pilot device.
- Remind voters in line to have ID ready. Provide information to those interested in new ID requirements.
- Provide sample ballots and voting equipment instruction guides to voters who need assistance.
- Be aware of senior citizens and disabled voters in line and offer assistance to those with difficulty standing.
- Help keep the polling area neat. Make sure the voting booths have marking pens and are free of campaign material and litter.
- Open doors for voters and direct voters to exits or restrooms.
- Provide information in a second language or by signing (if qualified).
- Alert the Chief Election Officer of any problems with the building or voters.

Responsibilities

- Report to and take direction from the Chief Election Officer in the precinct.
- Do not handle ballots, pollbooks, or voting equipment.
- Remain strictly impartial. Do not discuss politics, candidates, or issues at any time.
- Arrive on time. Work the entire time you have committed to.
- Do not leave the polling place until you notify the Chief Election Officer.
- Dress appropriately in business casual (no blue jeans, shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.).
- Use appropriate language and behavior at all times.
- Do not visit with friends and neighbors while working at the polling place.
- Do not use cell phones, pagers, cameras, music players, or other electronic devices.



Training

Election pages are required to come to our office in Leesburg for a brief training session on how to use the voter lookup device. These training sessions are available in the two weeks prior to the election. Students can drop by any time that fits their schedule.

Officers of Election

High-school seniors who will be 18 years old on or before the day of the November election are eligible to register to vote and serve as sworn Officers of Election in November and for Federal primary elections in the year they turn 18.



Officers of Election generally work the entire day (5 a.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m.). They check in voters, set up and operate the voting equipment, and help close the polls and ascertain the results from the precinct.

Attendance at a 2-hour general training session is required, and training on use of the voting equipment and laptop-based electronic pollbook systems also may be required. Election officers are paid \$100 for a full day of service plus \$20 for each training session attended. For more details and a packet of required application forms, visit www.loudoun.gov/electionofficers.

For More Information

Students or instructors/advisors interested in the Election Page program should contact the Loudoun County Electoral Board at 703-777-0548 and leave a message on the election officer line (press 2). Leave your name, telephone number, the school you attend, the hours you wish to serve, and any specific school you wish to serve at. We will get back to you with an assignment. You can also e-mail that information to elections@loudoun.gov.