



Chicago High School Student Election Judge FAQs

1. **What is new this election?** You will communicate directly with the Chicago Board of Elections by either email or phone regarding the March 17, 2026, Primary Election.
2. **What is the Student Judge Program?** Through the Student Judge program, roughly 1,000 high school students from over 40 schools learn about the voting process and serve as Election Judges at polling places across the City of Chicago each Election Day. Students, like adults, are paid for their training and Election Day services, and for elections that fall during a school day, students receive a full-day excused absence per Illinois law, if the day isn't already a school holiday.
3. **What is an Election Judge?** Election Judges are paid to manage the precinct polling place and assist voters. The job is challenging and rewarding. Judges share these responsibilities:
 - a. Arrive at 5AM at the assigned polling place location before the polls open on Election Day to set up equipment and all necessary materials
 - b. Open the polls on time at 6AM on Election Day
 - c. Issue the correct ballots to each voter and help voters with registration and other questions, from 6AM through 7PM
 - d. Complete all reports after the polls close - usually completed by 8:30PM, sometimes later
4. **Can I serve as a High School Student Election Judge?** In order to serve as a High School Student Judge, you must:
 - a. Be a current high school Junior or Senior
 - b. Have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - c. Live in Cook County
 - d. Be a U.S. Citizen by Election Day
 - e. Be able to read, write and speak English
 - f. Submit a parental/guardian consent form (see #5b)
 - g. Submit a principal consent form (see #5c)
5. **How do I apply/how do I serve?** In order to apply, you must:
 - a. On a laptop or desktop computer, go to pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and fill out the High School Student Judge of Election application
 - b. After you complete the application, log in back at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and have a parent/guardian complete and sign the Parent/Guardian Consent Form under the "Consent Form" tab – form due **February 3, 2026**. (see #17)
 - c. Be approved by your Principal to serve– form due **February 10, 2026**. (see #18)
 - d. Complete in-person training (see #8)
 - e. Serve at your assigned polling place location on Election Day from 5AM to roughly 8:30PM (sometimes later)



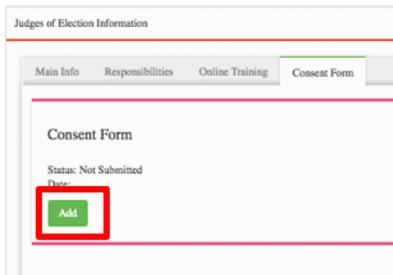
- 6. I applied as a Bilingual High School Student Election Judge. What is my next step?** Board staff will reach out to you by phone or email to confirm that you speak the language. It is important that you answer calls from the Board and/or respond to emails to secure a polling place location for Election Day.
- 7. How can I add this work experience to my resume?** Check out Mikva's template [HERE!](#)
- 8. How do I complete the training?** High School Student Judge applicants will complete paid in-person training provided by the Board of Elections. Training will be held at Block 37 (109 N Dearborn St). Registration for training at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov will be available in January and training will begin in February. You will not receive payment for training if you attend but don't serve on Election Day.
- 9. How much do I get paid?** \$170 for serving on Election Day and \$60 for completing an in-person training. You will not receive payment for training if you attend but don't serve on Election Day.
- 10. When do I get paid?** You must serve on Election Day to be paid. Payment is completed and issued by the Board of Elections and will be sent to the mailing address you entered on the Election Judge pay voucher (pink) on Election Day. It may take up to six weeks after Election Day to receive your check. If you have still not received it at that point, please call the Board of Elections at 312-269-7985 or email hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov.
- 11. Why do I need to submit a W4?** In order to receive compensation for serving on Election Day, you must submit a W4 to the Board. Instructions on how to submit it to the Board before Election Day will be provided by email at a later time. If you already submitted a W4 in 2024 (for the March or November elections), you will not need to submit a new W4 unless there are changes to your name or requested by the Board.
- 12. When do I find out which polling place location I am assigned to?** Once your application is approved and there is a polling place location available, you will be assigned and you will be able to view your assignment at pollworker.chicagoelections.gov. If you applied as a bilingual Election Judge, those assignments will take longer to complete since the Board has to verify if you speak the specified language by phone or email. You will also receive a letter in the mail at the address you provided on the online application with polling place assignment information approximately 10 days prior to Election Day. (Polling place subject to change).
- 13. Where can I update my contact information if needed?** You can email the Board at hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov or call 312-269-7985.
- 14. How do I look up precincts?** This [map](#) is interactive and will be the easiest to navigate.

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chair
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15. **Do I still need a parent to sign the consent form if I am 18 or over?** Yes. You need parental or guardian approval to be a High School Student Judge, regardless of age.
16. **What if I fail to submit the parental/guardian consent form?** You will be ineligible to serve as a Student Judge. Remember to submit your parental consent form by **February 3, 2026**.
17. **Where is the parental consent form?** The consent form is on your pollworker.chicagoelections.gov dashboard. It's on the last tab labeled "Consent Form" and has a green button that makes it pop up when you click it. Check out this screenshot:



18. **Who will submit the principal consent form?** The Board will work directly with your principal to obtain a signature on the principal consent form. If we are unable to reach your principal, we will ask for your assistance in obtaining their signature and submitting it to the Board by email. The principal consent form will be due by **February 10, 2026**.
19. **I forgot my password and can't log back in!** Go to pollworker.chicagoelections.gov and enter your email. Click login. Then click "forgot password" and follow instructions.
20. **I have a question that is not on this list – what do I do?** Email the Board at hsjudge@chicagoelections.gov or call 312-269-7985.