



Poll Officials FAQs

What are the responsibilities of a poll official?

Poll officials conduct assigned duties at a polling site on Election Day. Duties can include processing voters, monitoring the voting equipment, explaining how to [mark a ballot or] use the voting equipment, or counting votes. Other positions at a polling place include a greeter who assists with answering questions and directing voters to the voting area.

What are the hours of work?

Normally poll officials report to work one hour before polls open and leave one hour after the poll closes. Check with your [county election commission](#) for more information.

Are poll officials paid or volunteers?

Poll officials are compensated for working at polling places at a rate determined by the county election commission and are also compensated for attending any required training sessions. Poll officials may also choose to volunteer their services, but most are paid.

What are the training requirements for poll officials?

County Election Commissions are required by state law to provide training. This training provides all the necessary information and knowledge to be a successful poll official.

Where will I be assigned?

Every effort is made to assign a poll official to their neighborhood voting site. However, poll officials must be willing to be flexible and consider assignments at other sites in the county based on need.

What are the qualifications to be a poll official?

To be a poll official, a person must:

- Be able to read and write in the English language
- Not be a candidate
- Be 16 years or older, however, anyone 18 or older must also be a registered voter in the county
- Not work directly under the supervision of a county or municipal elected official who is on the ballot
- Not be a close relative of a candidate. Close relatives are defined as the spouse, parent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of a candidate on the ballot or a write-in candidate



A poll official may also:

- Have strong clerical skills
- Be able to solve problems
- Be an effective communicator

How do I become a poll official?

If you are interested in becoming a poll official, visit GoVoteTN.com to apply. Poll officials are appointed locally based on need.

May state employees become poll officials? Yes

Will poll officials be provided personal protective equipment? Yes