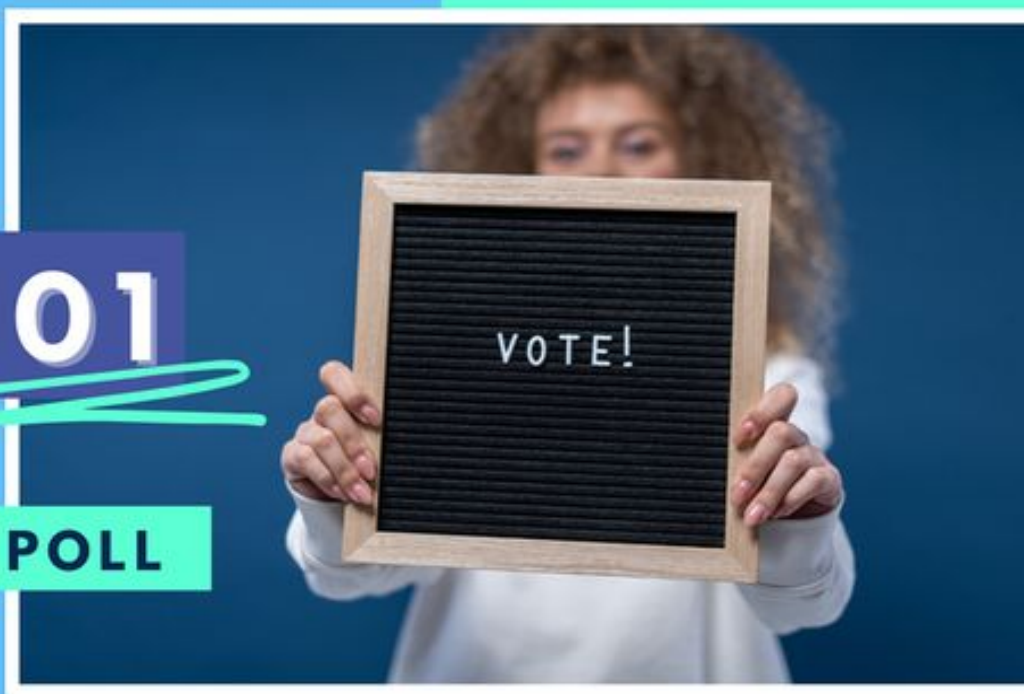


INFO SESSION

**POLL**

**WORKER 101**

**SO YOU WANT TO BE A POLL  
WORKER?**



# Objectives

- Get a feel for the job
- Understand the risks
- Decide if this is right for you

# Poll Worker FAQ

- What is a poll worker?
- What do poll workers do?
- How do I know if I'm qualified?
- Do I get paid?
- Why do we need poll workers?
- What makes this election different?
- How can I learn more and sign up to be a poll worker in Philadelphia?
- What if I live in New Jersey or a Philadelphia suburb and want to volunteer?

Visit [wevote.seventy.org](https://wevote.seventy.org) for these answers and more!

# The Basics

- Poll workers are Democracy's essential workers.
- Thank you for exploring ways to ensure that your community's voice is heard.

# Divisions and Polling Locations

- **1,703** voting divisions in Philly (aka precincts)
- Divisions will **not** be combined like they were in the primary.
- Approx. **700-800** polling locations
- Some buildings may house multiple divisions, but the divisions will remain as separate entities within the building, serving only the voters within that division.
- **1700 divisions x 5 workers= 8,500 workers**
- **1700 divisions x 4 workers= 6,800 workers**

# Election Board

Ideally **five people** on an election board:

- Judge of Elections
- Majority inspector
- Minority inspector
- Clerk
- Machine inspector (1-2)

# Compensation

\$200 base pay + \$50 for training

**(This is higher than normal pay  
because of COVID hazards)**

# Filling Vacancies

- Board of Elections making nearly **8,000 confirmation calls** to current workers.
- They are determining vacancies that need to be filled as they makes these calls.
- When will they call me back? Can I request my own division? Can I be placed with a friend? Can I request a particular position?



# Who Can Be A Poll Worker?

[WeVote Poll Worker FAQ](#)

- You can only be a poll worker in the county where you are registered to vote .
- Cannot be a federal, state, or city employee (**this includes school district employees**)
- Committee people can be poll workers **but must remain politically neutral on election day** (even what you are wearing!).
- All poll workers must be able to remain politically neutral on Election Day

# The Law

## Ideal - PA Law

- Judge of Elections and Inspectors are elected positions.
- Poll workers must live in the division where they work.

## Real - Legal Procedures for Workarounds

- You can and will work the polls without being elected.
- Happens all of the time.
- Counties officially approve poll workers to vacancies 5 days before the election (per state law)
- Happens behind the scenes, you will not participate in this.

# What Do Poll Workers Do?

## Beginning of day

- Arrive by 6:15 am at the latest
  - Lyft has promised free rides to and from the polls on election day!
- Set up tables, flow of the space, hang required signage and posters
- Unpack and account for materials
- Set up voting machines
- Mark off social distancing
- Receive instructions from Judge of Elections and clarify roles for the day

# Who Will Teach Me All of This?

## Board of Elections Training

- Required 1 hour virtual training video with short assessment at the end.
- Sign up at [training.philadelphiavotes.com](https://training.philadelphiavotes.com)

## Committee of Seventy and The Voter Project - Two Additional Trainings

- Session 1: General election law, election protection, and COVID safety
- Session 2: Details of the day - Common scenarios, reviewing set up, helpful checklists

## Other Poll Workers

- [Poll Worker Caucus](#)
- On the job learning on Election Day!

# Throughout the Day

Polls open from 7 AM - 8 PM

- Greet voters at check-in table
- Verify voters names in the poll book
- Help voters with specific questions and needs
- Explain how the machine works
- Manage social distancing

# End of The Day

Closing the polls - Could go late night!

- Polls do not close until the last person who was in line by 8pm has voted.
- Follow checklist procedures for shutting down machines.
- Complete paperwork, including payroll.
- Prepare and give materials to BoE workers and police.
- Take down tables, tidy polling location.
- Organize materials and deliver to Delaware and Spring Garden Ave.

**This sounds crazy!**  
**Why do it?**



# Keep Your Eyes on The Prize!

- You are enabling **Democracy** to exist in the United States!
- Elections cannot happen unless there are enough poll workers to make it happen, and shortages mean long lines and other issues for voters.
- More poll workers mean quicker processing of voters. The faster the processing, the shorter the lines, and the less chance there is that people will get out of line and not vote.
- **Ask yourself:** Is the value to society of this work worth the uncertainty and disorganization you may have to contend with?  
(We certainly hope so!)



# Get an Advocate and Get Support!

- **The Voter Project** (TVP) is in regular communication with Commissioners' offices advocating for the placement of poll workers who have signed up with at [thevoterproject.com/c70](https://thevoterproject.com/c70)
- **The Poll Worker Caucus** is a Facebook group with 175 members who are new and experienced poll workers helping each other through the process.

# Be an Election Protection volunteer!

- EP volunteers are utilized **outside of polling locations** to help answer questions, make sure people are at the right polling location, make sure their voter registration is up to date, help arrange rides for people at the wrong location.
- Basically just screening for barriers or challenges before people wait in line to go into the polls, saving people time.
- They want **full-day shifts**, but it is more flexible than being a poll worker.

# How To Sign Up

## To be a poll worker:

We strongly recommend that you apply in both of these two places:

- **The Voter Project:** [www.thevoterproject.com/c70](http://www.thevoterproject.com/c70)
- **City Commissioners:**  
[www.philadelphiavotes.com/en/election-board-officials/pollworker](http://www.philadelphiavotes.com/en/election-board-officials/pollworker)

Committee of Seventy and The Voter Project will advocate for your needs as a poll worker.

## To be a nonpartisan Election Protection volunteer:

- **Common Cause:** [www.protectthevote.net](http://www.protectthevote.net)

# Additional Trainings

- Info Session 1: The Basics of Election Protection & Covid Safety
  - In this session, we'll cover voting rights protected by law, and how poll workers play an important role in combating voter suppression and making sure every vote counts on Election Day. We'll also walk through the protections in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19, including steps each poll worker can take to limit their risk.
- Info Session 2: What to Expect When You're Expecting A Lot of Voters
  - C70 has partnered with experienced poll workers to create easy to use, helpful checklists, explainers and resources. We'll review these materials created **for poll workers by poll workers**, run through potential scenarios you might experience, and answer any questions you may have.

# Thank You!

This presentation was created in large part by the terrific people at [Fairmount Votes](#) and the Committee of Seventy & The Voter Project are grateful to use and share this resource.

For everything you need to be #readytovote, visit [wevote.seventy.org](https://wevote.seventy.org)

