

Student Election Judge Information

Minnesota Statute 204B.19

Subd. 6. High school students. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this section, a student enrolled in a high school in Minnesota or who is in a home-school in compliance with sections 120A.22 and 120A.24, who has attained the age of 16 is eligible to be appointed as a without party affiliation trainee election judge in the county in which the student resides. The student must meet qualifications for trainee election judges specified in rules of the secretary of state. A student appointed as a trainee election judge may be excused from school attendance during the hours that the student is serving as a trainee election judge if the student submits a written request signed and approved by the student's parent or guardian to be absent from school and a certificate from the appointing authority stating the hours during which the student will serve as a trainee election judge to the principal of the school at least ten days prior to the election. Students shall not serve as trainee election judges after 10:00 p.m. Notwithstanding section 177.24 to the contrary, trainee election judges may be paid not less than two-thirds of the minimum wage for a large employer. The principal of the school may approve a request to be absent from school conditioned on acceptable academic performance at the time of service as a trainee election judge.

Excerpts from Minnesota Election Judge Guide – June 2004 Edition:

1.3 STUDENT ELECTION JUDGE TRAINEES

High school students aged 16 and 17 can be **trainee election judges**. (Students age 18 and older can serve as full-fledged judges.) Along with the usual qualifications (except age), students must be in good academic standing, and have permission from their school and parents.

Trainee judges can serve for all elections. They serve without party affiliation and must be paid at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the minimum wage. They cannot serve past 10:00 p.m. and cannot number more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the election judges in any one precinct. Trainee election judges, like other election judges, are not required to serve the entire day.

Because trainee judges serve without party affiliation, they cannot perform tasks that must be carried out by judges of different political parties, such as curbside voting. However, trainee election judges can perform any other election judge tasks and should be assigned duties like other election judges. Trainees do not count toward the minimum number of election judges required to serve.

(M.S. 204B.19, subd. 6.)

1.4 ELECTION JUDGE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

All election judges must complete training, demonstrate their knowledge, and be certified before serving in an election. Each trainer keeps a record of the training each election judge has completed. The trainer must give a certificate to each election judge, head election judge, or health care facility absentee voting election judge who successfully completes a training course.

The county, municipal, or school district official administering the election in which an election judge is working may adopt additional requirements reasonably related to the ability to perform the duties of election judge. *(M.S. 204B.25; M.R. 8240.)*

1.4.1 Election Judges and Student Trainees

Before serving in an election, all election judges and student trainee election judges must complete election judge training and be certified as an election judge. This two-hour course is offered by the county auditor or designated city clerk or township clerk. Every judge who successfully completes training receives an election judge certificate that is valid for two years. To stay current with changing election law and ballot counting technology, election judges will renew their election judge certificate by again completing the two-hour training course every two years.