



# 2026 Primary Election Involved at 17 Program



## The City of Philadelphia's Office of the City Commissioners leads the Involved at 17 program, where students age 17+ can be poll workers.

This program promotes civic awareness and educates high school students about the election process by allowing students to serve as poll workers on Election Day. Students will practice responsibility, teamwork, and leadership while serving the community.

### Who can participate?

- Schools must identify a staff member to be the program's point of contact.
- Students must meet the following requirements:
  - Be 17 years or older on Election Day (**May 19, 2026**).
  - Be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Philadelphia County.
  - Have an exemplary record as determined by their school.
  - Have permission signatures from the school principal, teacher, and their parent/guardian.
- Students must sign up for and complete a two-hour training before Election Day.

## Dear Parent or Guardian,

The City of Philadelphia Office of the City Commissioners is proud to share the Involved at 17 program for the upcoming election. We're seeking high school students to join other members of the community to serve at polling places around Philadelphia on Election Day, May 19, 2026.

This is an exciting way for your child to participate in the democratic process, the foundation of our government in the United States of America. Participants will demonstrate a record of leadership and responsibility, add skills to their resume, earn up to \$280.00, and gain hands-on civic engagement experience.

**In addition to being interested in serving their community, students must meet the following requirements:**

- Be 17 years or older on Election Day (May 19, 2026)
- Be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Philadelphia County
- Students who will be 18 on or before Election Day must be registered voters in Philadelphia. If they aren't registered to vote, they can't be poll workers.
- Have an exemplary record as determined by their school
- Have permission signatures from the school principal and their parent/guardian. Students who are 18 don't need a parent/guardian signature, only their principal's
- Complete their application in full. Incomplete applications won't be assigned a polling place.
- Commit to working from 6:30 AM until at least 8:30 PM on Election Day. Students may not show up late or leave early.
- Acknowledge that they may need to travel to any part of Philadelphia to work, even if it's not near their residence.
- Must attend in-person or virtual training, which is required.
- Responsible for providing accurate and full information on the Election Day payroll sheet. Failure to fill out the payroll sheet will result in non-payment.

Students are required to complete a Student Poll Worker Application at [bit.ly/involved17](http://bit.ly/involved17) and fill out a permission slip. Students who are 17 require your signature and the signature of their principal. Students who are 18 only need their principal's signature. The completed form must be submitted to their teacher or uploaded online.

If you have any questions regarding the Involved at 17 program, please contact your student's teacher who told them about the program. You can also visit [vote.phila.gov](http://vote.phila.gov).

Sincerely,  
*Meghan Blickman*

**Meghan Blickman**

Deputy Executive Director of Polling Places and Election Boards  
Office of the City Commissioners

Apply online <http://bit.ly/involved17>. Apps accepted on a rolling basis; apply ASAP.

**THREE (3) SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** Student, Principal, and Parent or Guardian. **Typed signatures will result in a rejected application.** Return completed permission slip online or via email to: [involved17@phila.gov](mailto:involved17@phila.gov)

### Student's Information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST AND LAST)

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age you'll be on Election Day (5/19/26) \_\_\_\_\_  
(MONTH / DAY / YEAR)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

By checking this box I understand that if I will be 18 on or before Election Day (5/19/26), I must be registered to vote in Philadelphia.

By checking this box I certify that I am a resident of Philadelphia

By checking this box I certify that I am a US citizen

**As a student poll worker, I understand and agree that I am:**

- Becoming a member of the Precinct Election Board
- Committing to work from 6:30 AM to at least 8:30 PM on Election Day (5/19/2026)
- Acknowledging that I cannot show up late nor leave early
- May need to travel to any part of the city, even if it is not close to my residence
- Have an exemplary record as determined by my school
- Must attend in person or virtual training, which is required
- Responsible for providing accurate and full information on the Election Day payroll sheet. I understand that failure to fill out the payroll sheet will result in non-payment
- Completing this application in full before I can receive a placement

### Returning poll worker (optional):

I have worked at a polling place before and if it's possible would like to return to the same one.

Name of polling place: \_\_\_\_\_

### Bilingual Interpreter (optional):

I speak \_\_\_\_\_ (language) fluently, and would like to serve as an interpreter.

I understand that by choosing to be an interpreter, I may be asked to work in an area that has a need or vacancy, and may require travel.

**BY SIGNING THE ATTACHED PERMISSION SLIP AND UPLOADING IT ONLINE, YOU ARE ENSURING YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS LISTED ABOVE AND IN THE ONLINE APPLICATION.**

**APPLY ONLINE <http://bit.ly/involved17>**



## Involved at 17 Program Election Day Permission Slip

**INSTRUCTIONS: Students must upload this signed form to complete their Involved at 17 application online (<http://bit.ly/involved17>). Students won't receive poll placement until online app AND signatures are received. Please print neatly.**

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age on 5/19/2026:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Signature (Required)

I agree to the terms and conditions listed in the online application, and commit to work for the Primary Election on May 19, 2026.

**Student Printed Name**

**Student Signature**

**Date**

### Parent/Guardian Permission

*(Not Required for students that are over 18 by May 19, 2026)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Full Name) has my permission to work for the Philadelphia Board of Elections for the Primary Election on May 19, 2026.

**Parent / Guardian Printed Name**

**Parent / Guardian Signature**

**Date**

### School Permission (Required)

The above named student has an exemplary academic record and has permission to work for the Philadelphia Board of Elections for the Primary Election on May 19, 2026

**Principal/Director Printed Name**

**Signature of Principal/Director**

**Date**

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### How do I apply to be a student poll worker?

If you're interested in being a student poll worker, you must submit an application online at [bit.ly/involved17](https://bit.ly/involved17). The application must be signed by you, your school principal, and your guardian. Students who are 18 don't need a signature from their guardian, only their school principal. Signatures are uploaded on the website.

**You must meet the following requirements:** be 17 years or older on Election Day **May 19, 2026**; students who will be 18 on or before Election day must be registered voters in Philadelphia; be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Philadelphia County; have an exemplary record as determined by your school; and have permission signatures from your school principal and guardian.

### When is Election Day?

The General Election is Tuesday, May 19, 2026. You must commit to working from 6:30 AM until at least 8:30 PM.

### I'm 18 or will be 18 on Election Day. How do I register to vote?

You have three options: (1) register online: [pavoterservices.pa.gov](https://pavoterservices.pa.gov); (2) deliver your paper application to the Philadelphia County Voter Registration Office, or one of our Satellite Election Offices; (3) mail your paper application to the Philadelphia County Voter Registration Office. Mailed applications must received by 05/04/26.

**Voter registration deadline: 05/04/26.** We encourage poll workers to vote by mail in case they don't work near their polling place. **Mail ballot application deadline: 05/12/26.**

### Where will I work on Election Day?

Although Philadelphia needs poll workers countywide for every election, there are some areas that have a greater need than others. As a result, we can't guarantee that you will be placed in the polling location where you live. Elections staff do our best to match students to polling locations in close proximity to their homes. We encourage students/teachers to submit applications as early as possible to give our office more time to work with you in finding a convenient location for you to serve on Election Day.

### How will I find out where I'm working?

You'll receive an email before Election Day from [involved17@phila.gov](mailto:involved17@phila.gov). The information will include where you're working and reminders about what to expect. Don't forget to keep your eye on your spam just in case!

## Who will I be working with?

You'll be working with a team of five or six people who make the polling place run smoothly on Election Day so that voters can successfully cast their votes. Your team will be counting on you to show up and do your job!

## Will I be paid?

You can make up to \$280.00 for serving (\$30 for refresher training, \$50.00 for the required, in-person standard training, and \$200.00 for Election Day). You won't be paid if you only attend training(s) and don't serve on Election Day.

You might be able to earn community service hours, please talk to your teacher about that!

## Who do I contact if I am no longer able to serve on Election Day and need to cancel?

If you're no longer able to serve, please contact our office as soon as possible **215-685-4811** or **involved17@phila.gov**. Also tell your teacher and/or school principal.

## How will I be trained for Election Day?

Training is required and will be in-person.

## What should I wear on Election Day?

Tidy and comfy works for us! You'll be on your feet, so sneakers are best.

No headphones or earbuds unless you're on your break. No clothing, buttons, stickers, accessories, etc. supporting a political candidate, political party, or issue. Space is tight, so please don't bring a laptop.

## Looking for more information?

**Visit** [vote.phila.gov](http://vote.phila.gov)

**Email** [Involved17@phila.gov](mailto:Involved17@phila.gov)





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**Email:** [involved17@phila.gov](mailto:involved17@phila.gov)

**Complete the online application:**

Scan the QR code, or visit

<https://bit.ly/involved17>

