

Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote

Volunteering on Election Day

There are many ways to volunteer on Election Day in addition to providing transportation and childcare (described in Section 2 of this guide). If you volunteer on Election Day, it is essential that you:

- Call 866-OUR-VOTE and/or the county election commissioner if you see issues at the polls;
- Know the voter ID requirements for voters in your state;
- Collect contact information for your local election commissioner; and
- **Remember to vote!**

Below are opportunities to volunteer on Election Day.

Poll Worker

Election officials across the country find it difficult to find individuals to work at the polls, but this work is crucial to the fair administration of elections. Poll worker duties include helping set up the polls, explaining voting procedures, assisting voters with voting machines, registering individuals to vote (if located in a same day registration state), verifying registrants, and closing the precinct at the end of the day.

Visit the US Office of Election Assistance Commission website (<https://www.eac.gov/voters/become-a-poll-worker/>) to check if you are eligible to become poll worker, and if so, contact your local election office for more information.

Nonpartisan Citizen Observer

Some nonpartisan organizations train citizens to observe elections, and most groups are based in the states or counties in which they seek to observe. These observers work to protect the integrity of the electoral process and advance electoral quality and accountability regardless of the political outcome. Thirty-six states allow nonpartisan citizen observers to be present at elections.

Poll Watcher

Poll watchers observe polling places to ensure transparency in election. They guarantee that all votes cast are counted correctly, and report suspected irregularities to local officials. Most states allow at least some kind of observer in polling places, but the rules for how poll watchers are picked (and by whom) vary from state to state. Almost all jurisdictions require that official poll watchers be identified and approved in advance of Election Day.

In many states, poll watchers are affiliated with a political party or candidate, and are sometimes referred to as partisan citizen observers. Check your state's rules before recommending that NCJW members volunteer in any official capacity as poll watchers.

Voter Protection Hotline

Volunteer at a voter protection hotline to assist voters across the country. The ability to speak multiple languages is especially useful. Sign up to volunteer:

- 866-OUR-VOTE (English) – Lawyers Committee (<https://www.866ourvote.org/pages/election-protection-volunteers>)
- 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish) – NALEO Educational Fund (<http://veyvota.yaeshora.info/>)
- 888-API-VOTE (English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali) – APIAVote (<http://www.apivote.org/hotline>) & Asian Americans Advancing Justice (<https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/index.php/hotline>)

Legal Field Volunteer

The Lawyers Committee runs a legal field volunteer program in which lawyers can respond to and monitor voting problems at the polls in targeted locations as they arise. Learn more:

<https://www.866ourvote.org/pages/election-protection-volunteers>.

Be a Translator

Some jurisdictions with large populations of non-English speakers hire paid translators to assist non-English speaking voters. If you speak another language, contact your local board of elections to see if your language abilities are needed.