

Volunteering at the Polls

NCJW™

National Council of Jewish Women



If you volunteer on Election Day, it is essential that you:

- [Contact your state's Secretary of State office](#) or a [voter help hotline](#) if you see issues at the poll.
- [Know the voter ID requirements for voters in your state.](#)
- Be sure you have contact information for your local election commissioner.
- Remember to vote!

Below are opportunities to volunteer on Election Day.

Poll Worker

Volunteering to work at the polls 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 a poll worker. If you are, 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-four states and DC](#) allow nonpartisan citizen observers to be present at elections.

Poll Watcher

[Poll watchers](#) observe polling places to ensure transparency in elections. 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 National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) advocates 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. Some possibilities include:

- 866-OUR-VOTE (English) – Lawyers Committee (<https://866ourvote.org/>)
- 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.apiavote.org/hotline>) & Asian Americans Advancing Justice (<https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/index.php/hotline>)

Legal Field Volunteer

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and We The Action run 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 at <https://electionprotection.wetheaction.org/>.

Be a Translator

Some jurisdictions with large populations of non-English speakers hire 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.