

Poll Worker Survey Responses

More than 20,000 poll workers are needed to run a statewide election in Missouri. In 2008, more than 3,000 poll worker volunteers signed up through the Secretary of State's (SOS) website. The SOS's Office surveyed the volunteers that signed up through the office's website. The survey asked these volunteers for input regarding the elections they worked, their training, and about any suggestions they might have for future poll workers. The SOS's Office has received more than 650 completed surveys at the time of publication. The responses represent both volunteers who worked on Election Day and those who did not.

The survey responses have been divided into overarching themes and issues below. More than ninety-five percent of poll workers that worked an election in 2008 would like to work again in the future. These individuals as a whole felt that they had enough training to make it through Election Day without problems, received few complaints, and enjoyed the experience. Eighty-five percent of those individuals that did not serve would also like to work an election in the future.

Poll Worker Skills

Being a poll worker means spending approximately 14 hours at the polls on Election Day. This can be physically and mentally exhausting. Assignments range from greeting voters to serving as a machine technician. The interest in the 2008 election cycle brought with it many first time poll workers and many first time voters.

Several poll workers stated that the addition of college students and younger poll workers at the polls helped greatly. "It was great to have college students working at the Presidential election. They were sharp and very versatile. I hope they will continue to be recruited as poll workers," one poll worker stated.¹

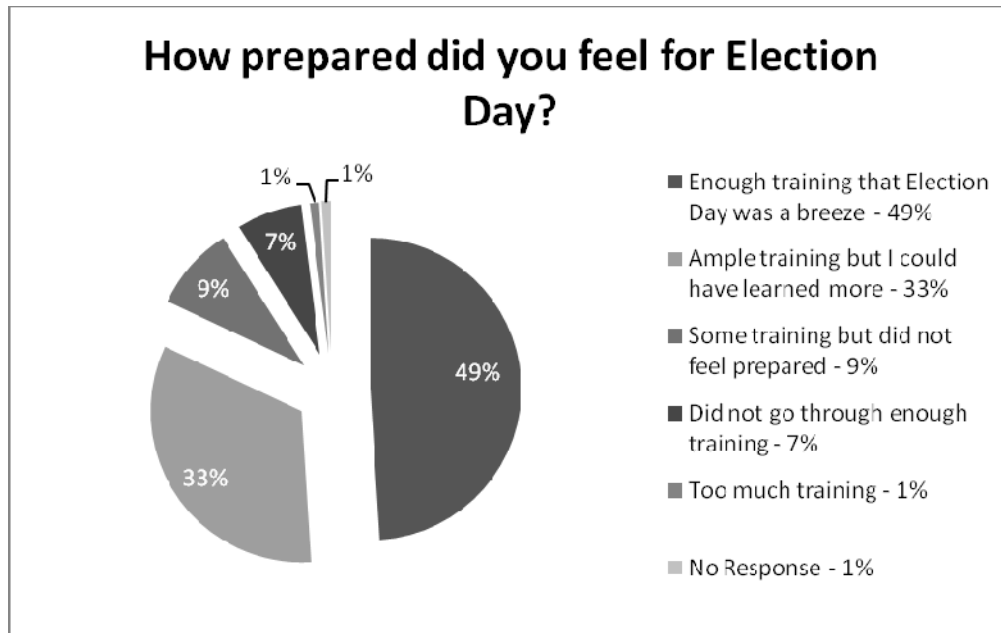
Following passage of the Help America Vote Act in 2002, the level of technology used in polling places has increased greatly. The addition of new poll workers that are accustomed to and comfortable with voting technology will play an increasingly important role in our elections.

Poll Worker Training

Poll worker training is conducted at the local level by each of Missouri's 116 local election jurisdictions. In response to that training, 49 percent of those individuals that served as poll workers felt that they had enough training to successfully make it through Election Day. However, thirty-three percent of those that responded believed they could have learned more. Some poll workers received several hours of training and felt "training was a little long" and that different positions should receive different amounts of training, for example "the captains should do the long training, everyone else maybe an hour or so." Other poll workers did not feel that

¹ For all poll worker comments please see complete list online at www.sos.mo.gov

they had received enough training. Many of those surveyed suggested role playing of Election Day scenarios, more hands on experience with setting up machines, and generally wanted more training time so that it did not feel rushed.



Many poll worker comments mentioned confusion about electronic voting machines. Some suggested that more education about how to use electronic voting machines be provided to the public because “they were scared to use them.” It was also recommended that Missouri “get rid of the electronic voting machines go back to a paper ballot.” Electronic voting machines seem to be more popular with poll workers in urban areas such as St. Louis and Kansas City with several poll workers in both of these areas requesting “MORE electronic voting machines!”

There were also comments about questions pertaining to election law, primarily regarding acceptable types of identification and address changes. Many Missourians move between elections and are unaware of the need to update their registration, “one woman thought when she changed her address at the post office that included voting.” More training is needed not only to help poll workers explain what the voters need to do to vote but also so poll workers know what to do when such a situation presents itself.

Overall, poll workers believed that they had received adequate amounts of training to successfully run the elections on Election Day and have learned from their experiences better preparing them for future service.

Polling Place Problems

Polling place set-up varies from county to county. Each county uses different machines and has different polling locations that alter how equipment and materials are laid out. One of the most commonly reported polling place observations was long lines. The most common reason

reported for long lines related to how the poll books were divided alphabetically. Many polling places had lines that were much longer for certain portions of the alphabet than others. For example “the line for the end of the alphabet (P-Z) was too long.”

Another reason for long lines was poll workers themselves. Poll books are often printed in a smaller font to allow for more names on a page. This font is not always easy to read and several poll workers requested a “faster way to log voters into [the] ledger.” To help ease “some long lines due to slow workers,” individuals “switched up to prevent from occurring again”.

Long lines make Election Day less pleasant for everyone, but are especially burdensome on elderly and disabled voters that may have difficulty standing in line for long periods of time. Some locations prepared by having “a place already set up with chairs.” Planning is important, all polling locations should “talk about crowds and how to manage the lines for these big elections” and “set up evacuation pathways beforehand.”

Other situations

Many poll workers in Missouri have provided many years of service. These workers have seen the machines and the laws change and have developed a camaraderie that helps them get through Election Day. These veteran poll workers prompted both positive and negative responses in the survey. Many new poll workers felt that their more experienced co-workers helped them get through the day. Past experience can be truly invaluable on Election Day as training, no matter how good, cannot simulate the full Election Day experience. Unfortunately, some new workers did not feel as welcomed. One poll worker stated, “the veteran workers seemed to have the attitude that I was not competent and I was given the job of handing out stickers.”

Suggestions for future poll workers

Poll workers were asked in the survey to provide tips and hints to future poll workers to make Election Day easier. Below is a list of the most common suggestions:

- Plan ahead, vote absentee
- Be aware of the weather
- Review your materials before hand and bring them with you to reference during the day
- Wear comfortable, layered clothing appropriate for the weather
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Bring water, snacks, and a lunch if not provided by LEA. You will be working for 12 to 16 hours and will need food and drink to sustain you throughout
- Bring coffee or other beverages you may want
- Bring a book, magazine (be careful that the content is not political), or crossword for the smaller elections
- Bring a pillow to sit on or support your back
- Get plenty of sleep the night before

- Be early for set-up
- Leave your purse and coat locked in your car
- Stay alert, notice the people around you
- Work out a rotation schedule for restroom and lunch breaks
- Be helpful and patient
- Have fun

Suggestions for Secretary of State's Office and LEAs

Many poll workers provided recommendations for changes in future elections. Some of these suggestions have been mentioned in previous sections such as dividing the poll books not solely by alphabet but by the number of names in each section of the alphabet. Poll workers also would like to see split shifts to reduce the burden of taking on a 12 to 16 hour work day. Several of the individuals that were unable to work in 2008 mentioned that split shifts would reduce their scheduling conflicts.

The most common suggestion from poll workers and those that volunteered to be a poll workers regarded communication. Many volunteers were not contacted by their Local Election Authorities and felt that they should have at least received notice that their name had been received by the office so that they could track their status. Poll workers and volunteers would like to be able to plan ahead. Several poll workers and volunteers received calls the day before the election which gave them very little time to make arrangements if they were able to at all.

Additionally, many poll workers and volunteers questioned how party affiliation plays a role in the choosing of poll workers. Several individuals that did not serve as a poll worker on Election Day would like to be chosen as an independent judge and feel that choosing a party should not be required. A volunteer also suggested that lists of potential poll workers be rotated so that more individuals get the opportunity to serve as a poll worker.

Conclusion

Those that served as poll workers reinforced the overall positives of the 2008 election season. The 20,000 plus poll workers and those that volunteer to serve as poll workers continue to allow Missouri to hold smooth and secure elections. Consistent evaluation allows the SOS's Office to measure successes and find areas that still need work. The individuals that were surveyed provided excellent insight into the experience of working at the polls in 2008. Additionally, these surveys should provide guidance for LEAs on steps to improve the Election Day experience for both voters and poll workers. The comments, suggestions, issues and themes mentioned in these surveys will be incorporated in to the planning of the next several elections.

Poll Worker Grant Programs

In an effort to increase efficiency in Election Administration and make sure that there were enough poll workers on Election Day, the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office invested over \$2 million into recruiting more qualified poll workers by making grants available for local election authorities (LEAs).

The grants provided for more technologically savvy poll workers and created additional training for more specialized poll workers on Election Day. LEAs applied for grants for: Polling Place Troubleshooters, Voter Assistance Specialists, Student Poll Workers and additional poll worker training.

Polling Place Troubleshooters monitor all electronic voting equipment in the polling place, assist with the setting-up and closing-down of voting machines, troubleshoot voting machine operation and deliver additional ballots to polling places as needed throughout the day. At the time of this publication, 37 counties were participating in this grant program.

Voter Assistance Specialists determine if the voter is in the correct polling place and if they have any special needs, ensure that voters have the correct identification, direct voters to the correct line, assist voters in completing any necessary forms, answer any general questions from voters and gather data as requested on forms provided by the SOS's office. At the time of this publication, 35 counties were participating in this grant program.

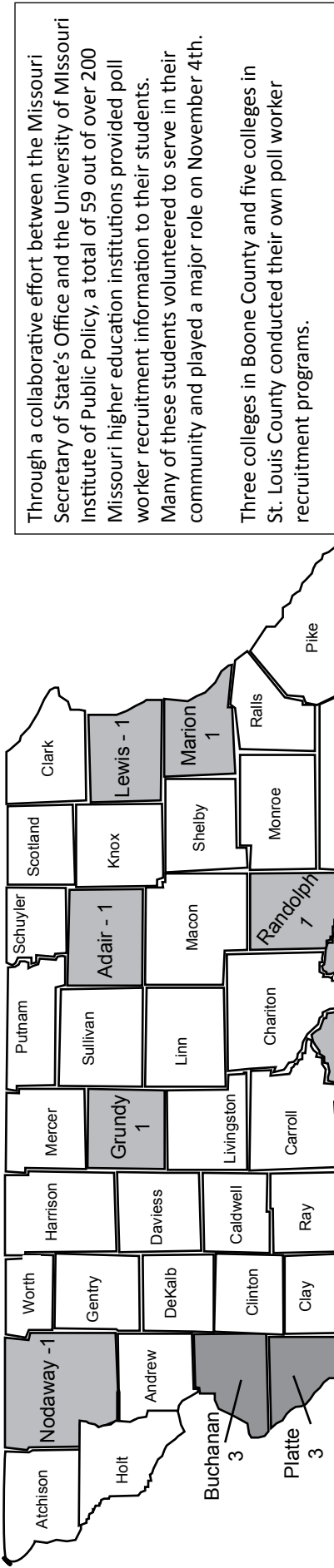
A Student Poll Worker must be at least 18 years old and a registered Missouri voter currently enrolled at a public or private educational institution, including a university, college, junior or community college, high school or vocational school, located within the state of Missouri. At the time of this publication, 24 counties were participating in this grant program.

The **Poll Worker Grant Program** was utilized by 74 counties at the time of publication.



Boone County Poll Workers help voters on August 5th, 2008.

Poll Worker Recruitment in Missouri Higher Education Institutions



Training Materials for Poll Workers

In February 2008, the SOS's Office began developing voting machine training materials for election officials and poll workers. These manuals were created to train Election Day staff on the various types of voting machines used throughout the state. The majority of the counties use a combination of two voting machines due to the fact LEAs are allowed to choose from an approved list of voting systems.

The four manuals the office created for training purposes are the following: *Premier Accuvote TSX and Accuvote Optical Scan Machines*, *ES&S Ink-a-Vote and Vote-o-Matic*, *ES&S Automark and Optical Scan Machines*, *Sequoia AVC Edge and Optech Insight*.

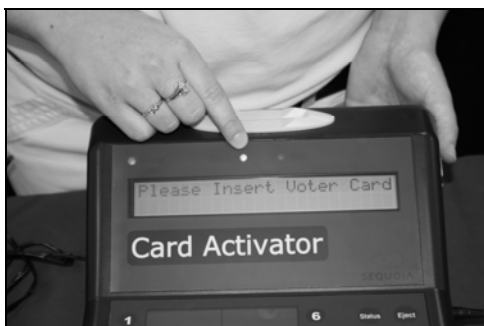
The SOS's Elections Division coordinated numerous opportunities with several local election authorities across the state to videotape and take photographs as their staff demonstrated some of the voting machine Election Day procedures. In addition to incorporating the LEAs' step-by-step voting machine instructions, the manual referenced the guidebook produced by some of the systems' companies.

This collaborative effort resulted in resourceful manuals featuring instructions on setting up the equipment, opening the polls, troubleshooting, closing down the polls and packing up the equipment. The office produced both paper versions and videos of the manuals illustrating and demonstrating the steps to be taken.

Each county received two paper manuals per polling place. In addition, five or more video versions of the manuals were distributed to each county. In total, the Secretary of State's Office produced and distributed approximately six thousand manuals and seven hundred videos.

In addition to the voting machine training materials, the Secretary of State's Office developed literature for poll workers to reference throughout Election Day. The *Ten Things Every Missouri Poll Worker Should Know* contained information pertaining to election law, accepted forms of ID and many other important topics including contact information for their LEA.

The SOS's Office distributed over 30,000 copies of the publication to the LEAs. The quick reference guide proved to be effective when the SOS's Office received high demands from clerks for additional cards after the initial distribution. As the office understands, these materials were used as an integral part of poll worker training for LEAs throughout the state.





DEMOCRACY IS ON THE LINE.



BE A POLL WORKER.

Visit www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker or call 1-800-669-8683



Robin Carnahan Secretary of State



Overview:

Over 25,000 poll workers are needed across Missouri because of high voter interest and the predicted record turnout in this year's election. Poll workers are truly on the front lines of democracy; their work is critical to protecting the integrity of our elections and ensuring that the voting process is fair and accurate. Individuals are encouraged to sign up at the Secretary of State's web site at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker. The names and contact information of participants will then be forwarded to their county's local election authority. From there, the local election authority will contact these volunteers to invite them to a scheduled training.

How you can help:

Recruiting enough poll workers depends on a partnership with businesses and organizations such as yours to recruit Election Day volunteers. We encourage you to not only make your employees or members aware of this important program but allow them a paid day off of work or service hours as further incentive.

By passing out the materials contained in this packet and participating as a partner you are not only providing an opportunity for your employees to participate directly in democracy, but also helping your community by ensuring that our elections are free, fair and accurate.

Contents of this packet:

- A template email or letter that can be used to share this volunteer opportunity with those in your organization.
- A template news release that can be used to share your participation with your community
- A sample handout that can be used to provide further information to interested individuals.
- A sample poster that can be used as a visual to remind individuals in your organization about the opportunity.
- A CD with a digital copy of all of the above.

For more information:

Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division
800-NOW-VOTE or pollworker@sos.mo.gov

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker/faqs.asp>



Dear <Insert Business/Organization> employees/members:

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, local election officials and <Insert Business/Organization> are working in partnership to recruit poll workers for Election Day. Poll workers are critical to protecting the integrity of our elections and ensuring that the voting process is fair and accurate. Over 25,000 Missourians are needed to work at the polls on November 4th, and I hope you will be one of them.

Regardless of which candidates you choose to support, every community should have accurate, fair, and secure elections. Poll workers are truly on the front lines of democracy and can make the difference between a smooth Election Day and confusion at polling places. The predicted record turnout for this year's election means your participation will be especially valuable.

I would like to encourage you to serve on Election Day. You can sign up on the Secretary of State's web site at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker. Your name and contact information will then be forwarded to your local election authority, who will contact you with more information about scheduled trainings before Election Day.

To learn more about the role of a poll worker and answer any other questions you may have, please visit <http://www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker/faqs.asp>. You may also contact <Contact Person> at <Contact Information>.

We are pleased to be a part of this effort that will improve our elections process by placing more workers in polling places across Missouri on Election Day. <Insert Business/Organization> has set a goal to sign up _____ interested employees.

Democracy is on the line. Be a Poll Worker!

Sincerely,



DEMOCRACY IS ON THE LINE.

BE A POLL WORKER

Robin Carnahan — Secretary of State

- ✓ Give back to your community.
- ✓ Earn extra money while showing your support for democracy.

Sign up at

www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker
or call 800.669.8683 today!



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Robin Carnahan — Secretary of State

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DEMOCRACY IS ON THE LINE.
BE A POLL WORKER
Robin Carnahan — Secretary of State

For immediate release: Insert Date
Contact: Insert Contact Name
 Insert Contact Phone Number

**INSERT BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION TO PARTNER WITH
COUNTY/CITY AND CARNAHAN TO
RECRUIT ELECTION DAY POLL WORKERS**

Democracy is on the line. Be a Poll Worker! Program Underway in Missouri

INSERT CITY, MISSOURI – **Insert Name** with **Insert Business/Organization** today announced it is partnering with Missouri’s Secretary of State Robin Carnahan to recruit poll workers for Election Day. In 2006, Carnahan launched the state’s first statewide initiative to recruit Election Day poll workers. **Insert Business/Organization** is pleased to announce it will heed the Secretary’s call to action and encourage its **employees/members** to serve as Election Day poll workers.

Insert a quote from the CEO/President about civic duty and importance of elections in our country.

Recruiting Election Day poll workers has become increasingly important after the passage of federal election reforms known as the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Since 2002, Missouri has busily been working to meet all national requirements and provide the best voting environment possible for those going to the polls. As part of this effort, the Secretary of State’s Office has worked to further develop the “Be A Poll Worker” program. This program helped local election authorities throughout the state find 1,700 more poll workers. It is hoped that during the 2008 election year even more individuals will volunteer to help their communities by working at the polls.

With the upcoming presidential election, the **county/city** will rely on quality poll workers more than ever to make things run smoothly on Election Day. **Insert Business/organization** hopes to be able to recruit **XX** poll workers to participate in the program and help ensure a smooth Election Day for **county/city**.

Insert quote from County Clerk or E.B. Director about how excited and pleased they are for Business/Organization’s participation in program.

To become an Election Day poll worker, interested participants can simply sign up on the Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker>.

“Becoming a poll worker is an easy way to give back to your community, your state, and the nation. I applaud **Insert Business/Organization** for supporting the front lines of democracy by participating as a partner in our poll worker recruitment efforts,” said Secretary of State Robin Carnahan.

To volunteer to be an Election Day poll worker, visit <http://www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker>. You can also contact the Elections Division staff in the Secretary of State’s office via email at pollworker@sos.mo.gov.

Insert standard PR paragraph about Business/organization.

Poll Worker Award of Excellence

Recognizing those that work hard is important. To honor the many men and women that worked the polls on Election Day, Secretary Carnahan commenced the *Poll Worker Award of Excellence* program. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify the attributes of a poll worker by carrying out the responsibilities and requirements of the law in a dedicated, fair and courteous manner.

Starting in November 2008, the SOS's Office emailed *Poll Worker Award of Excellence* nomination forms to LEAs throughout the state. This program gave election officials the opportunity to show their appreciation for the poll workers that served on Election Day.

Election authorities nominated a number of individuals for various reasons. Numerous poll workers were identified for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure fair elections. Others were nominated for their several years of service and for successfully adapting to the many changes that have occurred. The office also received nominations for first time poll workers who have proven to be a positive addition to the Election Day team.

In addition, the SOS's Office emailed and mailed *Poll Worker Award of Excellence* nomination forms to the individuals who volunteered their time and service on Election Day, the poll workers themselves. The poll workers seemed more responsive to the program thus proving these efforts a success. The majority of the nominations the SOS's Office received were filled out by other poll workers.

Since the launch of this program, over fifty poll workers from across the state have been nominated either by their local election authorities or by their peers. Over the next few months, the SOS's Office will work with LEAs to award the selected individuals and present them with a personalized certificate and a *Missouri Poll Worker Award of Excellence* lapel pin recognizing them for their hard work on Election Day.





The Poll Worker Award of Excellence 2008 Nomination Form

In efforts to honor the many men and women that worked the polls on Election Day, Secretary of State Robin Carnahan has commenced the Poll Worker Award of Excellence. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify the attributes of a poll worker by carrying out the responsibilities and requirements of the law in a dedicated, fair and courteous manner. Poll workers should be nominated for being identified as someone that goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure fair elections. The nominee may have served as a poll worker for several years and successfully adapted to the many changes that have occurred or they may have recently become a poll worker and have proven to be a positive addition.

Please mail to the Office of the Secretary of State, Communications Division, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Mo 65102

Person filling out nomination form: _____

Name of Nominee _____

County _____ **Years of Service** _____

Position(s) held _____

Explain why this person deserves the Poll Worker Award for Excellence (attach additional pages if necessary): _____



DEMOCRACY IS ON THE LINE.

BE A POLL WORKER

Robin Carnahan — Secretary of State

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Things Every Missouri Poll Worker Should Know

1 Photo ID is NOT Required.

Voters need to present only one of the following types of personal ID:

1. ID issued by the Federal Government, state of Missouri, or a local election authority;
2. ID issued by a Missouri institution (public or private) of higher education, including a university, college, vocational and technical school;
3. A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and address of the voter;
4. Driver's license or state ID card issued by another state;
5. Voters may also cast a ballot if personally known by two supervising election judges, one from each major political party, and an affidavit is signed by the voter and the two supervisory election judges. RSMo. 115.427

2 Be Sure to Give the Voter the Correct Ballot.

Your polling place may have multiple ballot styles which require you to review the poll book to determine which ballot voters should receive.

3 Voters May Choose to Vote on a Paper Ballot OR Electronic Voting Machine.

Voters should be aware they have a choice of voting on a paper ballot or electronic voting machine. Make sure you understand how the voting system works. If a machine is not working correctly, immediately call your local election authority or contact a technical specialist if one is available for your polling place.

4 Keep Plenty of Paper Ballots and Other Supplies on Hand.

Pay attention to how many paper ballots and provisional ballot envelopes you have at all times. If supplies run low, call your local election authority and ask them to send more supplies. Do not wait until supplies run out to call. By mid-day take an inventory of your supplies and prepare for a surge of voters at the end of the day.

5 Persons in Line at 7PM Must be Allowed to Vote. RSMo. 115.407

Send a pollworker to the end of the line at 7:00 p.m.

6 Voters May Choose Someone to Assist Them.

Voters who cannot read or write, are blind or disabled, and cannot vote the ballot, may bring in any person (including a child, relative or friend) to help them before, during or after voting. The assistant does not have to be over the age of 18 or be a registered voter; however, one person may not assist multiple voters (unless they are an immediate family member of the voter or an election judge). Additionally, a bipartisan team of poll workers must assist a voter upon request. RSMo. 115.445.3

7 Voters Who Moved to a New Address Within Their County May Cast a Regular Ballot.

Voters who have moved must vote in the precinct where they currently live or at a central location. If a voter moved to a new address within the same election jurisdiction (i.e. voter moved within the same county) and did not update their address, they may still cast a regular ballot.

1. Call your local election authority and verify voter’s new polling place;
2. Direct voter to new polling place or central location. RSMo. 115.165
3. Have voter fill out a change of address form before they cast their ballot.

8 If a Voter is not in the Poll Book, Call the Local Election Authority.

If a voter believes they are registered at your polling place, but they do not appear in the poll book, contact the election authority. If the election authority cannot find the voter in the statewide database, determine the voter’s assigned precinct based on their street address.

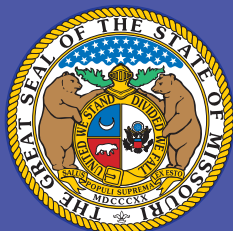
If the voter is in the wrong polling place, give the voter directions to the correct polling place that serves the precinct in which they live. Inform the voter that they may also vote at a central polling place. RSMo. 115.430.2(2)(b)

9 Follow Poll Closing Procedures & Ensure Security.

Return memory storage devices, voting equipment, ballots, and other materials as instructed by the election authority. Ensure ALL voting materials are securely stored during transportation.

10 Know Who to Call with Questions! Local Election Authority:

Contact Information:



Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State
www.sos.mo.gov



ROBIN CARNAHAN
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

CAPITOL OFFICE
ROOM 208
(573) 751-2379

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
(573) 751-4936

For immediate release: January 22, 2008
Contact: Ryan Hobart 573-526-4734
Mindy Mazur 573-522-9756

IT'S YOUR TURN: BE A POLL WORKER! **Some Counties Still in Need of Poll Workers for Super Tuesday 2008**

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI – Secretary of State Robin Carnahan is asking Missourians to sign up to serve as poll workers for this year's upcoming presidential primary election on February 5th, as some counties are still in need of more workers for the election.

To support local officials in administering Missouri's elections, Secretary Carnahan's office has worked to further develop the "It's Your Turn: Be a Poll Worker" recruitment program, where people can sign up to work at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker.

"Poll workers are where the rubber meets the road on Election Day, and they literally stand on the front lines of our democracy," said Carnahan. "Being an Election Day poll worker is one of the best ways to get involved and make a real difference in your community."

The "It's Your Turn: Be a Poll Worker" program has helped local election authorities throughout the state recruit about 2,000 potential poll workers over the last two years. Efforts are underway to spread the word so that even more individuals will volunteer to help their communities by working at the polls in the 2008 elections.

To qualify as a poll worker, Missourians must be at least 18 years old and registered to vote in Missouri. Students under 18 years old can also sign up on the website to help out on Election Day in other ways.

To volunteer to be an Election Day poll worker, sign up at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker or contact your local election authority directly. A list of Missouri local election authorities with contact information is available at: www.sos.mo.gov/elections/countyclerks.asp

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To find out more about Missouri's Secretary of State's office, visit www.sos.mo.gov



CAPITOL OFFICE
ROOM 208
(573) 751-2379

ROBIN CARNAHAN
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
(573) 751-4936

For immediate release: June 12, 2008
Contact: Ryan Hobart 573-526-4734

Take time to be a Poll Worker because this year *It's Your Turn!*

Potential record turnout this fall increases the need for poll workers A Column By Secretary of State Robin Carnahan

Before we know it, summer will start changing into fall and Missourians will start to focus more on the choices to be made in this year's elections. Missourians turned out in record numbers to participate in the February Presidential Primary, and I expect to see another record turnout in this year's General Election.

In 2006, my office launched Missouri's first statewide poll worker recruitment program that has signed up nearly 2,500 potential poll workers to help on Election Day. *It's Your Turn. Be a Poll Worker* is an ongoing partnership between my office and Missouri businesses, universities and civic and labor organizations. The program encourages voters from across the state to serve as poll workers.

As we look toward the August Primary Election and the November General Election, it is more important than ever to have enough knowledgeable, well-trained poll workers to assist Missourians in casting their ballots. In fact, smooth election days on August 5th and November 4th won't just happen automatically. They'll happen because civic-minded people from all across Missouri pitch in and serve their communities in a unique way.

You may not hear a lot about poll workers, but they are an essential part of running elections and making our democracy work. I always say that poll workers are "where the rubber meets the road" on Election Day. Poll workers are the people who make it all happen inside our polling places. They check-in voters, manage the voter registration rolls, answer questions, solve problems and ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote can cast a ballot.

Poll workers are paid for their effort and for taking time out of their busy lives to help make our elections run smoothly. And after putting in a long day, most poll workers return home with wonderful stories and a renewed sense of optimism about our country.

"I loved working the polls. I would do it again," said one poll worker. "We had 433 voters. It was great. Thanks for letting me be part of it."

Becoming a poll worker is an important way to give back to your community, your state, and the nation. It's your turn to join the front lines of democracy. I hope you'll consider signing up to become a poll worker yourself or help someone else sign up. It couldn't be easier. Simply go to our website at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker or call 1-800-NOW-VOTE.

Take time this fall to help make history happen. And remember, ***It's your turn. Be a poll worker!***

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