

ARTICLE FOR SCHOOL NEWSPAPERS

Become a Student Election Judge!

There are two ways to learn about elections, you can sit in class and listen to a lecture on how people vote or you could be a part of the Election Day action. You've probably noticed the voting machines lined up in the halls of public buildings. Curious about how those voting machines work? What makes voters stand in line to cast their vote? Juniors and seniors earn as you learn just exactly what Election Day really means. Since 2000, over 300 of your fellow students in Colorado have participated in the Student Election Judges Program.

Your high school has been approached by the El Paso County Election Department to participate in the Student Election Judge Program. The El Paso County Election Department is looking for juniors and seniors who are in good standing with their school. These students need to be at least 16 years of age or older on Election Day to become student election judges. Ask your school liaison or social studies teacher about the program. If you don't know who your school liaison is for the Student Election Judge Program contact the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's office at 719-575-VOTE (8386) for your school's contact information. If you qualify, fill out an application and return it to your school's liaison. Student election judges earn \$75.00 for working Election Day. In addition, you must attend a training class prior to any election at which you work. You will be reimbursed a small stipend for attending the mandatory training class.

As a student election judge you will assist experienced election judges with the set up of the polling place. You will also be responsible for tasks such as checking in voters and assisting in the operation of the voting machines. It's a "nuts and bolts" experience of democracy in action, and it can be a lot of fun! It's also a great item to include on your resume.

Contact your school's liaison or your social studies teacher to investigate the opportunity of working as an election judge for this coming election year, for the August 8, 2006 Primary Election and the November 7, 2006 General Election. You can also contact Alissa Bohall at 719-520-6231 or Amanda Beek at 719-520-6220 for addition information.