



## *Introduction*

Since its inception in 2000, the Student Election Judges Program has been a great success for county elections officials, educators, and students who have participated in the program. Last year, over 95 students participated in El Paso County alone. The student judge experience has raised the consciousness of the students who participate in the election process and it enables them to earn \$75.00 for working Election Day. The program will also help ensure that El Paso County has sufficient election judges to serve the needs of the voting public. Ultimately, we hope it motivates these students to become active voters in their communities and election judge resources for future elections.

## *Statute and Policy*

In 2000 the Colorado State Legislature enacted legislation allowing juniors and seniors in high school, who are at least 16 years old and students in good standing with their school, to work at polling places as student election judges. Colorado State Statute makes the following provisions:

- Student election judges need not be registered electors.
- Upon approval by their school's principal or an administrator designated by the principal, student election judges in El Paso County will be appointed as vacancies occur. School administrators must determine that selected students can reasonably miss school on Election Day.
- Students should have their own transportation to the polling place, or must assure the election department that they will be dropped off at the polling place by 6:00 a.m. and picked up when the Election Day's work is complete (approximately 8:00 p.m.).
- Student election judges and veteran election judges will assist in checking-in voters at the polling places, activating voting machines, and assisting electors in casting their ballots.

- Student election judges will be paid \$75.00 for working Election Day, and will be paid \$10.00 for attending the mandatory election judge class.
- Student election judges can also serve as absentee or early voting judges, however these positions required more than just a one day commitment.
- There are no party affiliation requirements for student election judges.

## *Qualifications*

Student election judges must meet the following qualifications:

- Be U.S. citizens by the date of the election at which they are scheduled to work.
- Be willing to serve – knowing that Election Day runs from 6:00 a.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m.
- Be physically and mentally able to perform the duties of an election judge.
- Attend a mandatory election judge class prior to each election at which they work.
- Never have been convicted of election fraud, other election offenses or fraud.
- Not be related to any candidate on the ballot in the precinct where they are working.
- Be at least 16 years old and a junior or senior “in good standing” at a public or private high school or are being home-schooled at the time of the election at which they plan to work.
- Have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- Have the approval of their school’s principal or designated administrator.
- All applicants must have a Social Security Number. This is required on the application. Students CANNOT be paid without a Social Security Number.

## *Lets Get Started*

Our office would like to develop a relationship with each area high school in order to grow and develop not only a student election judge program, but students that will be civic-minded and active participants in the election process. In order to do this we need to build a relationship with your school’s faculty. We would like to have a “Social Studies Liaison” for each high school as a point of contact. This person should be involved in government, social studies, or civics classes and help the El Paso County Election Department recognize junior and seniors who are responsible, in good standing, and who can be allowed to miss a day of school. Our office would like to work with you on setting up a time to give your students a presentation and meet with the faculty members who have questions about the Student Election Judge Program.

The package includes the following information on our program:

- Program description
- Student and teacher brochures
- Article for student publications
- Student Application/Permission forms (Only those students who are approved by the school’s principal should be given applications.)

## Procedures

A member of our staff will meet with a school faculty member to present the program and have a liaison assigned for each participating school.

El Paso County Election Department staff will come out to each individual high school and present the Student Election Judge Program. Our office will work with the “Social Studies Liaison” to recruit and appoint qualified students. Selected students will complete Student Election Judge Applications and get the “permission” section of the application signed. They will then return the completed applications to the faculty member or liaison. Liaisons will get a Student Election Judge Application signed for each student by the school’s principal or designated administrator.

School liaisons will forward copies of completed applications, signed by both parents and school representatives of the qualified, recommended students to the election department.

The El Paso County Election Department will then appoint each of the qualified students as election judges for vacancies that occur. We will then send each of them an appointment letter with their assigned polling place location, and training class schedule.

## Follow-up

Following an election at which they work, student election judges will be sent Certificates of Appreciation.

Schools will be notified as to which of their students worked as election judges, so that schools can honor these students. We strongly suggest that student judges provide a presentation of their experience to their peers.

Students and school liaisons who participated will be asked to provide feedback on their experience as election judges and liaisons (forms will be provided by the El Paso County Election Department). Students will also be asked to indicate whether they would be willing to serve as an election judge in the future. Liaisons will be asked to distribute “feedback forms” and to return completed forms to the election department.

Please remember that if you should have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Student Judge Program you should contact Alissa Bohall 719-520-6231 or Amanda Beek 719-520-6220.

