

Youth at the Booth Form Letter

Dear school district superintendent/PTA president/high school principal,

This fall our nation faces a shortage of poll workers. This presents a unique learning opportunity for seniors in high school to not only take in the American election process first hand, but be part of something bigger as they help their communities make their voice heard during a pandemic.

Poll workers are essential to running elections. Ohio's 88 county Boards of Elections have historically relied on over 35,000 patriotic Ohioans to operate voting locations and assist fellow voters with casting a ballot. With more than 65% of Ohio poll workers being age 61 or over, there is a concern that many may choose not to serve this November due to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on older populations.

Even though they cannot vote, 17-year-old seniors are able to serve as poll workers in Ohio and the Secretary of State is requesting that parents, teachers, and coaches ask their eligible students to help defend democracy this November.

Poll workers earn around \$100-\$150 for their time. They can also receive community service hours, extra credit in school, and a boost to their college applications. Further, civic participation provides hands-on learning, fosters further civic involvement, improves the elections process and promotes community by proving that young adults can contribute and make a difference.

Please encourage young people in your school and community to sign up at VoteOhio.gov/DefendDemocracy and join the team that will help ensure our elections remain fair and strong.

Thank you,