

Voter Registration



Cook County Clerk's Office

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Registering to vote is the first step toward participating in government and building a better democracy. Every student who can vote should vote—not just in presidential elections but in every election.

You may register to vote:

- At the Secretary of State when you obtain your Driver's License or State ID
- By downloading, completing and mailing a voter registration application from our website at cookcountyclerk.com
- Or ask your teacher or school official if voter registration is available at your school

Beginning January 2014, 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by the November General Election will be able to register and vote during the Primary Election of the same year.

This means that in a general election year, 17-year-olds who will be 18 by November can vote in the March Primary Election and can serve as deputy registrars.

Serving on Election Day

"It was a great experience. It gave high school students the opportunity to participate in something very important, especially because I am only 17! Being an election judge helped fulfill my part in helping the country."

*Darius Hurston
Hillcrest High School*

"It was a great way to learn the voting process. I had no clue what went into (it) or all that it takes just so voters can vote. It will forever be something I remember and I will, without a doubt, be delighted to serve as an election judge in future elections."

*Princess White
Lyons Township High School*

Cook County Clerk's HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

By getting involved early in life, students learn they can make a difference both locally and globally. As part of the Cook County Clerk's High School Student Program, students get a behind-the-scenes look at the democratic process. They may participate as paid Judges serving their community on Election Day and/or Deputy Registrars and register others to vote.

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Student Judges

The Cook County Clerk's Office partners with more than 80 high schools across suburban Cook County to engage students in the electoral process. More than 1,500 high school juniors and seniors serve as election judges each year.

Student surveys show:

- 93 percent report being more likely to vote in the future
- 90 percent report that they would be willing to serve again in the future

Qualifications

To qualify as a student judge, you must:

- Be a high school senior or junior
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Be a U.S. citizen by the next election
- Be able to speak, read and write English fluently
- Successfully complete an election judge training course conducted by the Clerk's office
- Have written consent from your principal and a parent or legal guardian. Pending school policy, this signed consent will excuse students from attending school on Election Day
- Reside in Cook County

Compensation

Election judges receive \$200 for their work. This is paid to students who attend training, pass the test and work on Election Day. All three conditions must be met.

How to Apply

You can fill out a Student Judge Application online at cookcountyclerk.com. After submitting the application, you must print out the signature consent form, get the required signatures and either hand it to your high school coordinator, fax it or email it to us.

Fax forms to (312) 603-9788 or email to Student.Coordinator@cookcountyclerk.com.

If you have any questions about the Clerk's Student Judge Program, please call (312) 603-0961 or e-mail Student.Coordinator@cookcountyclerk.com.

Deputy Registrar

As a trained student registrar, you can sign up qualified family members, classmates and friends to vote.

Since 1991, the Clerk's office has trained 18-year-olds how to register people to vote as part of its student registrar program.

Qualifications

A Deputy Registrar must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen residing in Cook County
- Receive training from the Cook County Clerk's office
- Be sponsored by a state bona fide civic organization or agency such as your school

The Clerk's office will also assist your school in conducting registration events and publicizing the upcoming election.

