

Becoming an Election Inspector

Frequently Asked Questions

When you serve your community as an Election Inspector, you play an active role in one of the principles our country was founded on by protecting the rights and freedoms of our citizens by facilitating the Right to Vote.

Q. What is an Election Inspector?

They are voters who are appointed by the Board of Elections to serve a 1-year term to work in the polls for the Primary & General Election Days or any other election as needed.

Q. What are Election Inspector's Responsibilities?

They are responsible for making sure the voting process at the polls is conducted according to Election Law in a fair and efficient manner representing the Yates County Board of Elections.

Q. Are Election Inspectors Volunteers?

No, Yates County pays them. Once trained there is an expectation to work any and all elections occurring during that year.

Q. Can anyone be an Election Inspector? What are the qualifications?

Any registered voter who is enrolled in the Democratic or Republican Party may be an Election Inspector. Inspectors are recommended by the local County Political Committee's and from time to time with the committee chairperson's approval we will use an individual outside of the 2 major political parties. Inspectors are also required to speak, read and write the English Language.

Q. Is there a lot of training involved to be an Election Inspector?

Basic training, testing and certification is required every year. Training is scheduled typically in May to comply with Election Law. Classes are about 3 hours long. Election Inspectors are compensated at an hourly rate approved by the Yates County Legislature each year.

Q. You say Basic training, what other training is involved?

Basic training covers the overall general inspector responsibilities and expectations. Once an individual has trained and worked for an election the desire of the Yates County Election Commissioners is to train more extensively on the voting machine and the procedures surrounding it. This additional training is combined with a process that includes testing the machines and ballots to ensure the ballots were printed correctly and the machines are functioning properly just prior to each election. This additional time has proven to be valuable to the entire process and allows for the inspectors to become much more comfortable with a process that they are only typically exposed to a couple of times a year. We try to eliminate the fear.

Q. What Days and Hours do Election Inspectors Work?

Election Inspectors work on General Election Day in November from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. They also work when there is a Primary Election, or Special Election, usually from 11:00 am until 10:00 pm. Some Inspectors only desire to work a partial day, finding 17 hours is just too long. Split (half) shifts can be arranged. Whenever possible all Inspectors are scheduled to work which allows for additional experience and some flexibility in case of illness or emergency.

Q. Will I be working with experienced Election Inspectors?

Yes. There are at least four (4) inspectors working in each Election District. Yates County calls upon 72 – 109 Election Inspectors to work in 18 Election Districts. About 90% return to work every year; so the majority of inspectors are experienced.

Q. Do Election Inspectors get time off during Election Day?

Inspectors remain at their polling site throughout the day and are allowed ample time for meals and breaks.

Q. Will I be working in my own voting polling site?

Inspectors are scheduled whenever possible in their own voting district, but if there is already a full complement of inspectors you will be scheduled as close to home as possible until an opening arises. There are No Promises inspectors MUST be flexible.

Q. If I am not working in my own voting polling site, how will I vote?

Inspectors working outside of their home voting districts must vote by completing a Special Absentee Ballot Application and may vote NOT MORE THAN 2 weeks prior to an election. If scheduled out of your district, a ballot application will be sent/given to you.

Q. What If I after I vote as a Special Absentee my schedule changes and I end up working in my own voting polling site?

Inspectors must then vote as they normally would and the Absentee Ballot will never be opened. The Law provides that if you're in your district on Election Day you MUST vote in person.

Q. What must I do to be considered as an inspector?

Please complete the application form found on this web site and either email or mail it to us. You will be contacted when a need arises.

Q. Are there other working opportunities with the Board of Elections?

Yes, during the course of the year we sometimes seek assistance from the Inspectors to man voter registration drives, count absentee ballots, attend High school voter outreach activities and such.