

# Election Season is Upon Us and It Is Time to Modernize the Poll Worker Selection Process

By By Senator Lisa Boscola

It is mid-term election season! Soon, I will be introducing legislation to modernize Pennsylvania's electoral process by transitioning from the election of poll workers to an appointment-based system. This change aims to address the growing challenges in staffing polling places effectively while ensuring the integrity of our elections.

Senator Boscola Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that elects its poll workers—a practice dating back to 1799. Each of the over 9,000 voting precincts requires the election of three officials: a Judge of Elections, a Majority Inspector, and a Minority Inspector. That is more than 27,000 positions every four years. Many of these positions go unfilled and must be covered by write-ins. Write-in winners are often unaware they were elected and unprepared for the responsibilities of the role, which leads to last-minute appointments and inadequate training. This is a broken model that makes county elections administration harder than it needs to be.

My legislation would eliminate the requirement to elect Judges of Elections and Inspectors. Instead, county boards of elections would appoint qualified individuals to serve as poll workers. This will allow counties to proactively recruit and train these individuals, reducing the number of unfilled positions and last-minute appointments.

It is time to modernize our election infrastructure and bring Pennsylvania's elections system in line with the 49 other states that utilize an appointment model.

Did You Know?...More than 27,000 poll worker positions will be on ballots across Pennsylvania this November, allowing voters to select who will be in charge of their precincts during the 2026 and 2028 election cycles.

In the meantime...

## About Poll Worker Positions

Every precinct needs at least 5 poll workers:

- Judge of Election
- Majority Inspector
- Minority Inspector
- Clerk
- Machine Inspector

Every four years (ex. 2025, 2029, etc.), voters elect a Judge of Election and a Majority and Minority Inspector for their voting precinct. If one of these positions is vacant, counties appoint volunteers to serve in the role on Election Day.

## How to Volunteer to Be a Poll Worker

Poll workers manage the voting process on Election Day. They open voting machines, check in voters, keep people voting, and close up at the end of the night.

Most poll worker roles are filled by volunteers, who do not have to run for a polling place official position. If you are interested in volunteering to help at your local precinct as a poll worker, complete a poll worker interest form.

After you submit the form, your county's elections office will contact you.

You may reach out to the elections office to follow up. You can find contact information on the Contact Your Election Officials page.



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