

Press Release

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Election Judges Needed in the City of Cottonwood, Minnesota in the County of Lyon for Expected Heavy Election Voter Turnout

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Cottonwood, Minnesota — Lyon County is calling on eligible residents to serve as election judges on Primary Day, August 11, and Election Day, November 3 — in what is expected to be a heavy voter-turnout election. In every presidential election since 1980, Minnesota has led the nation in voter turnout.

Each statewide election cycle, about 30,000 Minnesotans serve as election judges in more than 3,500 polling places. [In Cottonwood this year, approximately 12 election judges will be needed to staff one polling places.]

Interested persons can learn more about serving an election judge at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/> or may visit their location election office at 78 West Main Street to complete and submit an application. Most cities and counties will appoint election judges in May and June.

“Serving as an election judge is a great opportunity for Cottonwood residents to meet others in their community,” says Teather Bliss, City Administrator “And while the work can be challenging, it is so rewarding that nearly all judges return each year.”

Election Judge Duties and Eligibility

Judges receive training in a range of duties, including: greeting and registering voters, providing ballots, assisting voters as needed, overseeing ballot-counting machines, and compiling precinct voter statistics at the end of Election Day. In Cottonwood, election judges are paid \$10.00 an hour approximately. Election judges are granted time off from work by law.

Potential judges must be eligible to vote in Minnesota; be able to read, write and speak English; and attend a training session provided by local election officials. Most training is approximately two hours in length. In Cottonwood, judges fluent in Spanish are especially desired.

Opportunity for High School Students

High school students can also serve as election judge trainees. To be eligible, students must be 16 years old or older on or before Election Day, November 3; be a U.S. citizen; be in good academic standing at a Minnesota high school (or home schooled); and have permission from parents and school. Student trainees are also paid positions.

High Need for Election Judges

The need for election judges exists both in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota, and especially for those who are fluent in languages other than English to assist a more diverse population of Minnesota voters. Additionally, the need exists to establish a new generation of election judges to replace those who are retiring after years of service.

In November, Minnesota voters cast their ballots for President, U.S. House of Representatives, United States Senator, State Legislators, and Judicial Offices. Locally, Minnesotans may also be voting for their County Commissioner, Soil & Water Supervisor, City or Township Officials, and School Board Members.