



About Working at the Polls in Haddam

Haddam has been fortunate to have many towns people offer to work at the polls over the years. Though it is paid work, the spirit is that of volunteering to serve your community and honoring the right to vote. We as the registrars are grateful for your interest and for that volunteer spirit.

When are Poll workers Needed?

Following the calendar year, poll workers could be needed for:

- Primary for Town Committees and the subsequent election (these are rarely needed as slates are usually approved in the Committees themselves).
- School Budget Referendum in the first week of May and subsequent budget votes if it isn't passed in the first iteration.
- Primary for municipal elections in August followed by the November election. This occurs on odd numbered years.
- Primary for state and national offices and legislators in August followed by the November election.

What do Poll Workers Do?

Haddam has three polling places; one in Haddam Neck, one in Haddam at the Firehouse and one in Higganum at the Central Office/H-K High School campus and poll workers are assigned to one of these sites.

The Poll Worker positions include: Head Moderator (1), Moderator (one at each polling place), Assistant Registrar (1-2), Checker (1-2), Ballot clerk (1-2), Tabulator Tender, General Assistant. A Greeter and Absentee Ballot Counters may be required. The Registrars of Voters determine assignments to each of these roles. See the appendix for detailed instructions for each position.

Training

Training involves doing one online course (approximately 5 hours) and spending a half day with the Haddam Registrars for hands-on training. The online course completion results in a certificate that you can print and is noted on the Secretary of the State's website. The course needs to be renewed periodically when there are updates.

How are Poll Workers Paid?

To receive payment **for completing the online training**, workers present their certificate of completion to the Registrar or notify the Registrar of completion and are paid \$65.00.

The **hourly wage for poll workers starts at \$13 per hour**. Poll workers are provided with time sheets to fill in hours spent doing hands-on training, setting up the polling places and working on Election Day. Checks are sent out from Town Hall.

What Happens on Election Day?

Polls open at 6AM and close at 8PM. All Poll Workers must arrive at their assigned polling place at 5:15 AM and work until the Moderator lets them go – usually between 8:30 and 9PM. The moderator will arrange for each position to be covered so workers can take breaks. It is preferable to have one person work a position for the entire day but we have been considering having split shifts for some positions.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided. It's suggested that you bring water and snacks, some reading or knitting for slow periods during the day. Some volunteers suggest a cushion for your chair.