

CITY CLERK

Thumbs Up for Pollworkers

At each election, hundreds of City Employees take personal time to staff and monitor polling places in the City. Consider signing up for the next election.

Story and photo courtesy Howard Ou, Pollworker Section, City Clerk

Flags are placed at approximately 1,600 polling places throughout the City; people are standing in line, waiting to check in and cast their vote. Meanwhile, proud, new and experienced pollworkers work diligently and quickly to greet and check-in voters with a smile, while Inspectors oversee the Pollworkers and the polling place.



The City Employee Pollworker (CEP) Section, from left: Diane Flinn, Sunny Cho, Howard Ou and Judy Chen.

Those are just some of the responsibilities of the workers managed by the Pollworkers Section, Election Division, Office of the City Clerk. We just had a major election, but two more are coming up: the City's primary election March 3 and the general election May 19.

Every election year, thousands of proud City employees set aside work time during business hours and join their colleagues to work as either Inspectors or Pollworkers on Election Day. The role of an Inspector includes: receiving and checking supplies, setting-up the poll, overseeing the poll to ensure smooth operation, assigning roles to pollworkers, closing the poll, and returning supplies to the Collection Depot. Pollworkers are responsible for greeting and checking-in voters, distributing ballot cards, directing voters to voting booths, assisting elderly and disabled voters, and instructing voters on how to use the voter recorder and precinct ballot readers.

We asked a former pollworker, Virginia Valencia, who works for the Board of Public Works to share her experience. Valencia is an experienced pollworker who has worked as a pollworker for the 2005 and 2007 elections. Valencia says she continues to participate as a pollworker because she wants to promote voting awareness to people who are unfamiliar with the electoral process and encourage them to vote.

Whether you sign up to be an Inspector or Pollworker, working long hours on Election Day is a reality. However, Valencia said that throughout the day, "There was a varied distribution flow of voters" who came to vote, which allowed pollworkers to take breaks.

When asked about the overall experience working on Election Day, Valencia expressed that it was such a rewarding experience that she even encouraged her son, who works for Public Works/Sanitation, to be a City Employee Pollworker for this upcoming Election. What Valencia enjoyed the most was "seeing people enthusiastic to come out to cast their vote."

As a City employee, you have a great opportunity to serve the community, fulfill your civic duty, and help voters gain a positive voting experience. Whether it's your first time or you have worked as a pollworker in previous elections, you will find this experience rewarding and unique.

If you are interested in working on Election Day, please contact the Office of the City Clerk - Election Division at (213) 978-0001.

About the City Employee Pollworker (CEP) Section:

The staff of the City Employee Pollworker (CEP) Unit ensures all eligible City Employees have the opportunity to participate in the CEP Program by providing valuable information. Whether its conducting recruitment presentations to City employees or providing information to the Department Coordinators, these individuals are here to offer City employees an opportunity to gain unique experience.

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