

Multi-partisan Assistance Team (MAT) Worker 101

Thank you for your interest in being a MAT worker. Make an impact and make some money.

Poll workers, including MAT workers, are the hands, eyes, and ears that make elections happen. Without our team of dedicated, civic-minded individuals, we could not run smooth and transparent elections. Poll and MAT workers are needed now more than ever and your interest and willingness to contribute to our democracy is greatly appreciated.

First things first. Please read this document completely. There's a lot of important material here that we hope will make your decision easier.

Please note MAT workers are not the same as election day or early voting poll workers. There are important differences; training is separate, as are workdays, hours, and compensation. For those with stamina and will, it is possible to work MAT and election day. It is not ideal to combine MAT with early voting because the timeframes will overlap.

What is a MAT team?

MAT workers work as a team. A MAT comprises of one registered Republican and one registered Democrat. Voters who are registered as unaffiliated are only used when a backup is required to replace someone in an emergency. MATs are invited to care facilities or nursing homes located in Buncombe County to expand access to voting for the residents. This would include assisting residents with registering to vote, completing an application for an absentee by-mail ballot, and completing the envelope and documentation to submit an absentee by-mail ballot. MAT members use an iPad to complete many of their tasks, including looking up each voter in our voter database.

Dates & time commitment

MAT workers' schedules vary as the team is invited by a care facility. The exact date and time changes from visit to visit but visits are scheduled between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. MAT workers must be generally available to work 15-20 hours each week during the months of September and October.

Our office contacts MAT workers to determine their availability for a particular visit. If the person is available, they come to our office and meet the opposite party MAT member to check out required supplies before the visit. The team drives to the assisted living facility using their personal vehicle. Using an iPad, MAT workers perform the duties needed to assist the residents with their election related needs. This usually takes 2-3 hours. When the work at the facility is finished, the team returns to our office with the supplies and voting materials.

Possession of a valid driver's license and working vehicle is required (mileage will be reimbursed).

Skills required

- Comfortable and confident working on a tablet (iPad)
- Experience working with the elderly
- Patience and compassion

Compensation

It surprises some people to learn that poll workers are not volunteers. Pay: \$17/hr. and reimbursement for mileage to/from the care facility

No politics

MAT workers serve all eligible voters in Buncombe County with respect, efficiency, and fairness. There is no room for politics inside the facility: this means no partisan conversations, wearing of any partisan clothing or buttons, or other activities such as bringing a book or magazine to read which is political in nature.

Employment agency

A national employment agency handles onboarding/hiring. They run background checks on all poll workers, verify US citizenship, and handle compensation. It will be necessary to share information such as your bank account details and social security number.

Training

In-person training is mandatory for every election. Several training sessions are offered – you select one to suit your schedule - and each session is 4 hours. You will be paid to attend training.

Again, thank you for your interest in serving the voters of Buncombe County. We look forward to working with you. If you have not already completed the poll worker application and are interested in becoming a MAT worker, please do so now. If you have already completed the application, we will be contacting you shortly to discuss the next steps.