

HB 662: Election Law - Election Judges - Compensation for Public School Students:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 662**, concerning *Election Law – Election Judges – Compensation for Public School Students*.

While encouraging civic participation among young people is a worthwhile goal, **compensating public school students to serve as election judges raises several important concerns.**

First, election administration requires a high level of maturity, attention to detail, and the ability to manage sensitive and sometimes tense situations. Election judges are entrusted with safeguarding the integrity of the voting process. Expanding compensated roles specifically to public school students **may place young individuals in complex environments** for which they may not yet be fully prepared.

Second, **creating compensation structures tied specifically to public school students raises fairness concerns.** Civic engagement opportunities should not create unequal treatment among students based solely on school type or status. Policies related to elections should remain neutral, consistent, and focused first and foremost on maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the process.

Additionally, if the State wishes to address shortages of election judges, **efforts could focus on broader recruitment among adults** in the community, retirees, or civic organizations **without introducing potential complications related to student employment, supervision, and academic obligations.**

Civic education is best strengthened through classroom instruction, structured volunteer opportunities, and **curriculum-based activities that occur without sacrificing instructional time —not through policies that may blur the line between education and compensated election administration.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 662.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals