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Take time to be a Poll Worker because this year *It's Your Turn!*

Potential record turnout this fall increases the need for poll workers A Column By Secretary of State Robin Carnahan

Before we know it, summer will start changing into fall and Missourians will start to focus more on the choices to be made in this year's elections. Missourians turned out in record numbers to participate in the February Presidential Primary, and I expect to see another record turnout in this year's General Election.

In 2006, my office launched Missouri's first statewide poll worker recruitment program that has signed up nearly 2,500 potential poll workers to help on Election Day. *It's Your Turn. Be a Poll Worker* is an ongoing partnership between my office and Missouri businesses, universities and civic and labor organizations. The program encourages voters from across the state to serve as poll workers.

As we look toward the August Primary Election and the November General Election, it is more important than ever to have enough knowledgeable, well-trained poll workers to assist Missourians in casting their ballots. In fact, smooth election days on August 5th and November 4th won't just happen automatically. They'll happen because civic-minded people from all across Missouri pitch in and serve their communities in a unique way.

You may not hear a lot about poll workers, but they are an essential part of running elections and making our democracy work. I always say that poll workers are "where the rubber meets the road" on Election Day. Poll workers are the people who make it all happen inside our polling places. They check-in voters, manage the voter registration rolls, answer questions, solve problems and ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote can cast a ballot.

Poll workers are paid for their effort and for taking time out of their busy lives to help make our elections run smoothly. And after putting in a long day, most poll workers return home with wonderful stories and a renewed sense of optimism about our country.

"I loved working the polls. I would do it again," said one poll worker. "We had 433 voters. It was great. Thanks for letting me be part of it."

Becoming a poll worker is an important way to give back to your community, your state, and the nation. It's your turn to join the front lines of democracy. I hope you'll consider signing up to become a poll worker yourself or help someone else sign up. It couldn't be easier. Simply go to our website at www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker or call 1-800-NOW-VOTE.

Take time this fall to help make history happen. And remember, ***It's your turn. Be a poll worker!***

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