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CAVALIER JOHNSON
COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Young people stepping up to support our democracy

Statement of Common Council President Cavalier Johnson August 19, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter our daily life, and in particular has placed extra strain on our elections. Recruiting willing and able poll workers to support elections during a public health crisis is challenging, and is why I was inspired to see young people organize to support our democracy.

The youth led organization Poll Hero is a non-partisan effort to recruit high school and college students to work the polls on November 3rd. The group was moved to act after Spring primary challenges popped up in Milwaukee and other cities across the country. So far, Poll Hero has recruited more than 100 young people to work the polls in Milwaukee County and nearly 300 statewide, primarily through social media.

Our democracy is at its best when more people are active and engaged in the process, and groups like Poll Hero are helping make that a reality. I applaud their activism and encourage others to join them as we are still in need of hundreds of additional poll workers in advance of the November 3rd election. Earlier this summer I was proud to sponsor a file accepting the Center for Tech and Civic Life grant that will add an additional \$100 compensation increase for poll workers. Election Inspectors will now receive \$230 for a full-day shift and Chief Inspectors will receive \$325.

Those wanting to become a poll worker can visit <https://www.pollhero.org/> or <https://city.milwaukee.gov/Helpmilwaukeevote>.

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