# Potential vignettes

### Veteran Poll Worker/Election Staff Vignette -- poll worker shortage impetus for recruitment efforts:

The text of the following vignette is derived from multiple sources and slightly modified. The majority of the text is modified from a [VA|News article online from 2022, by Mike Richman](https://news.va.gov/108631/elections_vet_the_vote/). Some text is also modified from a [NCSL Report in 2023](https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/finding-and-keeping-qualified-poll-workers).

I'm a little apprehensive about the quotes, mostly because the quotes used may potentially cue how the survey respondent should feel. I derived them from the VA article from 2022 and modified them a bit, but they're otherwise authentic quotes from real life veterans as far as I can tell. It may be fine to omit quotes from veterans who have worked as poll workers, but I'm not sure.

"As political candidates jockey for support during the stretch run to the U.S. general election in November, state and local officials are scrambling to staff polling sites with election volunteers. Major indicators are projecting a massive [poll worker/election staff] shortage for the 2024 election and beyond.

[Poll workers/Election staff] are the temporary staff brought on to do the hands-on work for every election. They include greeters at polling places, ballot counters, foreign language interpreters, warehouse workers, supervisors, and many more specialized jobs. [Poll workers/Election staff] are the essential staff.

[Poll workers/Election staff] play a critical role in elections while getting to see the truest form of American democracy in action. They are responsible for opening the polls in the morning; checking in voters and issuing ballots; maintaining the chain of custody of ballots, voting equipment and supplies; and reconciling the number of voters checked in with the number of ballots cast at their location, among other duties. Poll workers make on average $100 to $150 a day, including paid training in many locations. But a shortage of poll workers can create operational challenges, including the unexpected closure of polling sites and long lines.

More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. If only 10% of the 17 million American Veterans [enlisted/volunteered/served] as poll workers, that would easily fill the void of any poll worker shortage.

Army Veteran [Fake Name] is training to be [a poll worker/on the election staff] during the early voting period in [City, State]. [Fake Last name] believes their role as [a poll worker/election staff] is key to preserving the integrity of the election, “I registered to be an election precinct staff member to help reinforce trust in our election process, as Veterans have earned a high level of trust,” they said. “It is critical to ensure that each voter is properly processed so their vote is counted.”

"Many states, including [Insert State], are short on [election staff/poll workers] this cycle. I want to ensure that everyone has easy access to vote when it’s right for them. Fewer staff means longer lines and potentially less time available for potential voters.”

Air Force Veteran [Fake Name] served as a [poll worker/election staff] in [City, State] during the 2020 presidential election. They saw such volunteerism as another way of giving back to their country,

“When I left the military, I was ready to transition to civilian life, but I think a lot of Veterans maintain a long standing desire to serve.”

Multiple organizations have formed to help recruit veterans to serve as poll workers. During the 2022 midterms, more than 63,500 veterans and members of military families were successfully recruited and [served/worked] as poll workers. Recruitment efforts for 2024 aim to recruit 100,000 veterans to volunteer as poll workers.

### Poll Workers/Elections Staff:

 The following vignette is the same sans any mention of veteran service members, or any other groups. The quotation is sourced from an [NPR story from 2020](https://www.npr.org/2020/08/05/894331965/wanted-young-people-to-work-the-polls-this-november). The quote used has been modified to be sterile of any particular demographics.

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More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. Various groups and organizations are engaged in efforts to recruit volunteers in the lead up to the November elections. [Fake Name], who is volunteering to be [a poll worker/on the election staff], says putting work into something that's focused on civics — not politics — is refreshing.

"I've always had the energy to go out and campaign," he says. "But this is the nonpartisan, basic democracy-saving stuff, which is people going out and volunteering so that other people can vote."