



OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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Internal Election Audit Report

Kankakee County General Primary Election March 17, 2026

Summary

On March 17, 2026 Kankakee County voters voted for local government boards. The Kankakee County Auditor's Office has conducted an election audit for the purposes to be transparent on the process of each election in Kankakee County. In accordance with 55 ILCS 5/3-1005-1006 (Section g), the Kankakee County Auditor's Office has conducted an independent audit of the election process to ensure transparency, compliance, and accountability in all election-related operations.

Election Workforce Overview

The election process involved multiple categories of workers, each playing a vital role in ensuring the efficiency and integrity of the election.

Early Voting Election Judges:

- **Compensation:** Hourly rate
- **Duties:** Manage early voters from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.

Election Judges

- **Compensation:** \$225.00 per judge
 - Additional compensation:
 - Pickup duty (one election judge):
 - \$25.00 Kankakee/Bourbonnais
 - \$30.00 Township pick-up
 - Return duty (One Republican and one Democrat election judge):
 - \$12.50 for Kankakee/Bourbonnais
 - \$15.00 for Township
- **Duties:**
 - Pickup and setup of polling places on Monday prior to the election
 - Polling duties on Election Day from 5:00 AM until the conclusion of post-election procedures after 7:00 PM

Election Coordinators

- **Compensation:** \$225.00 per day (Monday and Tuesday)
- **Mileage Reimbursement:** \$0.725 per mile (IRS standard rate)
- **Duties:** Serve as on-site field representatives for the County Clerk’s Office, addressing and resolving operational issues during the election.

Garage Workers

- **Compensation:** \$75.00 per diem Election Day. \$100 per diem for Sunday work.
- **Duties:** Assist with the expedited return of election equipment on election night.

Type of worker:	Non-County Employee:	County Employee:	Total Election Workers	Total Cost:
Early Vote Judges	0	6	6	\$8,480.25
Election Judge	224	10	234	\$56,325.00
Garage Worker	10	6	16	\$1,325.00
Election Coordinator	0	6	6	\$3,968.61
	Total: 234	Total: 28	Total: 262	Total: \$70,098.86

Polling Place Compensation

Kankakee County utilized a total of 59 polling locations during the March 17, 2026, General Primary Election. These included both government-owned facilities (such as municipal and township buildings, libraries, and schools) and privately owned or non-governmental facilities (such as churches).

Compensation Policy

To ensure fairness and consistency, the County Clerk’s Office maintains a standardized reimbursement policy for polling places that are not publicly owned. Under this policy:

- **Non-governmental locations** are eligible to receive a **flat rate of \$125.00** for the use of their space on Election Day. **One location received \$250.00 for having two polling places.*
- **Governmental locations** (city, county, state, or school district-owned properties) are not compensated, as these spaces are made available as a civic duty and public service.

This policy helps to manage taxpayer costs while recognizing the contributions of private entities that support the electoral process.

POLLING PLACE	NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES	TOTAL PAID
Government location	31	\$0.00
Non-governmental location	28*	\$3,625.00
	Total polling places:59	Total Paid: \$3,625.00

Audit Review and Claim Verification

During the audit, the following verification steps were performed:

- All submitted claims for polling place use were reviewed against the County Clerk's list provided and election judge verification process.
- The names of vendors, addresses, social security numbers, and the amounts claimed were cross-referenced for accuracy and verified vendor information in MIP.
- One exception was identified. One election judge was marked down for return duty, however after clarification with the County Clerk's Office it was realized the judge wasn't on return duty. Correction was agreed upon, and the compensation was not warranted. All other payments matched the approved reimbursement amount and were supported by proper documentation.

Conclusion

The Kankakee County Auditor's Office has reviewed and verified all submitted claims, payrolls, and operational procedures associated with the March 17, 2026, General Primary Election. All records have been found to be accurate, complete, and in accordance with relevant statutes and policies. We extend our sincere appreciation to all election judges, coordinators, garage workers, and County employees for their dedication and service. Their efforts ensured a smooth, transparent, and fair election for the residents of Kankakee County.

Submitted by:



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