

New taxing minimum for Election Workers

Election workers, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), perform services for state or local governments in connection with national, state, or local elections. Wages of an election worker are exempt from the employer federal income tax withholding.

Election workers earning \$1,600 or more for the 2013 calendar year will be expected to pay federal income tax and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax. (FICA is a combination of Social Security and Medicare.) The employer must report income for these employees.

Washington State has an IRS Tax exclusion (Section 218 [IRS Publication 963](#)) that applies to [Election Worker FICA coverage](#). Effective for 2013, FICA tax must be calculated for Washington election workers earning \$1,600 or more. This adjustment is based on the cost of living and is an increase of one-hundred dollars over last year.

Reporting wages for election workers depends upon the aggregate amount paid by the county to the worker in the calendar year.

- If wages paid during the year are less than \$600, no Form W-2 is required. The wages are not subject to FICA or federal income tax withholding. The election worker must report the earnings as wages.
- If wages paid during the year are between \$600 and \$1,599, file a Form W-2. FICA and federal income tax withholding are not required to be withheld. The election worker must report the earnings as wages.
- If wages are equal or greater than \$1,600, a W-2 should be issued. (This amount is indexed for inflation; see page 33 in IRS [Publication 15](#), Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide.) The wages are subject to FICA, but not federal income tax withholding.

Employers reporting election worker taxable income should use Form W-2 Taxable, Wage and Tax Statement forms. Do not to use Form 1099-MISC¹ for election worker reporting.

The election worker must report these earnings as wages.²

¹ <http://www.irs.gov/instructions/iw2w3/ch01.html#d0e1335>

² <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4268.pdf>