

AMWA Statement for Vision 2020

July 29, 2020

AMWA will join other organizations in partnering with Drexel University College of Medicine's Vision 2020: National Women's Equality Initiative. The goal is to ensure access to voting for all. Medical students are in a unique position to participate actively in this effort by volunteering as poll workers in the upcoming election in an effort to make polling sites more efficient and safer.

Given the nature of the pandemic, those over 65 years of age are at significant risk of contracting severe illness from COVID. Unfortunately, this was the largest group of poll workers in the country. To create a safe environment for onsite voting, AMWA is encouraging our lower risk members to volunteer to be poll workers. AMWA's medical student division is one of the largest groups of medical students in the country and are uniquely qualified to fill the need for poll workers.

Participation directly at the polls can also motivate students to encourage their peers to partake in voting and make a difference in their communities.

It is critical that everyone has access to voting. Because medical students can have a significant impact on voting, AMWA asks that medical students be offered the opportunity to volunteer on Tuesday, November 3rd as an excused absence from their educational requirements.

Allowing students to request time-off to vote or volunteer to be poll workers, will provide direct opportunities to prevent the spread of COVID for more at risk groups.

*AMWA Advocacy Committee*

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