

California

Voting is the cornerstone right of our democracy. You can only have your voice and your needs reflected in government if you vote. Pre-registration is an important tool that allows people younger than 18 to vote as soon as they are eligible.

- ✓ California has pre-registration to vote starting at age 16.¹
- ✓ To pre-register, just fill out the standard California voter registration application [online](#) and select options for “pre-register to vote.”²
- ✓ You can also get a paper registration form at your high school/campus, or by calling 800-345-VOTE and requesting that one be mailed to you, or at government offices.
- ✓ When you fill out the application to pre-register, you will get a confirmation card in the mail. Your pre-registration will be converted automatically into an active registration when you turn 18.
- ✓ For full details, see the [California Secretary of State’s Pre-Registration](#) page. You can also [check your registration status](#) online.

California law does not allow those younger than 18 to vote in primary elections, even if they will be 18 by the time of the general election. You can only vote once you turn 18.³

California law does allow students age 16 and up to serve as poll-workers. To serve, you must be enrolled in high school have at least a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale, and be a US citizen or permanent resident.⁴ According to the Secretary of State, you also need permission from your parents and school.⁵

For more information, see ACS’s resources on [pre-registration](#) and [youth poll workers](#) in all 50 states.

ACS encourages everyone to learn more about voter registration in their state. ACS is not a voter registration entity. This is simply an informational tool and is not intended, nor should it serve, as legal advice.

¹ CAL. ELEC. CODE §2000(c), 2102(2)(d)

² The online application is available in numerous languages. You do not need a California drivers license or ID to fill out the online application, but without an ID number, the system will prompt you to print, sign, and mail the form.

³ CAL. ELEC. CODE §2000(c), and California Secretary of State, “[Who Can Vote In California](#)”

⁴ CAL. ELEC. CODE §12302

⁵ California Secretary of State, “[Poll Worker Information](#)”