

Washington, District of Columbia

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.

- ✓ D.C. has pre-registration to vote starting at age 16.¹
- ✓ To pre-register, those age 16-17 should fill out the standard DC voter registration form which is [online](#), or print and mail-in the form (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)).
- ✓ You can also pre-register in-person at various D.C. agencies including: the D.C. Board of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Corrections, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Aging, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Human Services.
- ✓ D.C. also allows registration on election day at polling places, which requires showing proof of residence.²
- ✓ Your pre-registration will be converted automatically into an active registration when you turn 18, and you are eligible to participate in early and absentee voting if you will be 18 on or before the day of the next general election. You can [check your registration status](#) online.

D.C. law does allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary and general elections, provided they will be 18 on or before the day of the next general election.³

D.C. law does allow people age 16 or over to serve as poll-workers. Students age 16 or older who are residents of D.C. and are enrolled in or graduated from high school or an institution of higher education are eligible. They can choose to receive a stipend or community service hours, and can work a part day.⁴

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 D.C. Code § 1-1001.07(a-2)

² D.C. Code § 1-1001.07(5)

³ *Supra* at Note 1

⁴ D.C. Code § 1-1001.05(e)(4)(A) and US Election Assistance Commission State-By-State Compendium of Election Worker Laws and Statutes (2016), at 34