

Iowa: Youth Pre-Registration to Vote

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.

- ✓ Iowa allows people to register to vote starting at 17 years and 6 months of age.¹
- ✓ Beginning January 1, 2019, the minimum age to register is lowered to 17 years-old.²
- ✓ To register, fill out the [Iowa online registration application](#) or print and mail-in the [paper form](#). To complete the online form, you need an Iowa Driver's License or ID Card number.
- ✓ If you have any questions about your eligibility to register to vote in Iowa, contact your Iowa [County Auditor](#).

Until January 1, 2019 Iowa 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.³

Beginning on January 1, 2019, people 17 years of age will be permitted to vote in primaries if they will be 18 by the time of the election.⁴

Iowa allows students age 17 and up to serve as poll-workers. Students must be US citizens and enrolled in credit-bearing courses in at least 4 subjects, without any failing grades. They must have parental and principal permission, and complete training. The student must declare a political affiliation. No more than one student can serve per precinct.⁵

For more, 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 IA. CODE ANN. § 48A.5(c). "Completed registration forms shall be accepted from registrants who are at least seventeen and one-half years of age; however, the registration shall not be effective until the registrant reaches the age of eighteen" The statute also provides that people age 17.5 who will be 18 years old on election day qualify as registered for the purpose of absentee ballots.

² Enacted by Iowa HF516 at Sec.55 and Sec.64, signed by the Governor on May 5, 2017

³ *Supra* Note 1

⁴ *Supra* Note 2

⁵ IA. CODE ANN. § 49.13(6)