

Maine

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.

- ✓ Maine has pre-registration to vote at age 17.¹
- ✓ To pre-register, fill out the Voter Registration Card² and drop it off at your local town office or city hall, through any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state and federal social service agencies, or at a voter registration drive.³ You can also mail the form to your [municipal registrar](#) or the state Division of Elections.⁴
- ✓ Your pre-registration will be converted automatically into an active registration when you turn 18.⁵
- ✓ There is no deadline to register in person at your town office or city hall. The deadline to register by mail is the 21st day before the election.⁶
- ✓ Any registered voter in Maine may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person. Call your [town or city clerk](#) for an application and assistance.⁷

Maine does allow those younger than 18 to vote in a primary or caucus, only if they will be 18 by the general election.⁸ You must be 18 to vote in a general or referendum election.⁹

Maine law does allow people age 17 to serve as poll-workers. A municipal officer may appoint a 17-year-old as a “student election clerk” for a specific election with all the responsibilities of an appointed election clerk. All nominations for election clerks must be submitted to the municipal officers no later than April 1st of each general election year.¹⁰

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 21-A M.R.S.A. §155 (2011).

² Maine Department of the Secretary of State, "[Voter Registration Data, Election Data and Online Forms](#)"

³ Maine Department of the Secretary of State, "[State of Maine Voter Guide](#)"

⁴ Instructions to Voters, [Maine Voter Registration Card](#)

⁵ Conversation with Maine Department of the Secretary of State, Division of Elections, March 1, 2018

⁶ *Supra* note 3

⁷ Maine Department of the Secretary of State, "[Absentee Voting Guide](#)"

⁸ 21-A M.R.S.A. §111-A (2005).

⁹ *Supra* note 3.

¹⁰ 21-A M.R.S.A. §503(2)(C) (2013).