

## 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.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ To pre-register, fill out the Voter Registration Card<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> You can also mail the form to your [municipal registrar](#) or the state Division of Elections.<sup>4</sup>
- ✓ Your pre-registration will be converted automatically into an active registration when you turn 18.<sup>5</sup>
- ✓ There is no deadline to register in person at your town office or city hall. The deadline to register by mail is the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election.<sup>6</sup>
- ✓ 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.<sup>7</sup>

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each general election year.<sup>10</sup>

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.*

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<sup>1</sup> 21-A M.R.S.A. §155 (2011).

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Instructions to Voters, [Maine Voter Registration Card](#)

<sup>5</sup> Conversation with Maine Department of the Secretary of State, Division of Elections, March 1, 2018

<sup>6</sup> *Supra* note 3

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

<sup>8</sup> 21-A M.R.S.A. §111-A (2005).

<sup>9</sup> *Supra* note 3.

<sup>10</sup> 21-A M.R.S.A. §503(2)(C) (2013).