

## Youth Pre-Registration and Voting

Several states allow registration or voting in primaries before age 18, with different rules as explained below:

### States with pre-registration (includes those who will not be 18 by the next election)<sup>1</sup>:

- Beginning at age 16: California, Colorado, Delaware (only at motor vehicle offices), District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana (only at motor vehicle and registrar offices; otherwise age 17), Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina<sup>2</sup>, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah
- Beginning at age 17: Maine, Nevada (effective Jan 1, 2018)<sup>3</sup>, and New Jersey

### States that allow registration to vote beginning at another age:

- Alaska: 90 days before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Georgia, Iowa (until Jan 1, 2019), and Missouri: Registration starts at age 17.5 (if 18 by election)
- Texas: Must be at least 17 years and 10 months of age when completing the registration form
- New York: Must be 18 years old by December 30 of the year in which you register to vote
- Oklahoma: Those age 18 on or before the next election may register up to 60 days prior

### All other states: Registration before 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for those who will be 18 on or before election day:<sup>4</sup>

- Starting at age 17: Illinois (17 by primary), Iowa (effective Jan 1, 2019)<sup>5</sup>, New Mexico, West Virginia
- No Statutory Minimum Age: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

### States that allow those younger than 18 to vote in a primary if they will be 18 by the general election:<sup>6</sup>

- All primaries: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia
- In some places, voters younger than 18 can vote only in presidential preference primaries or caucuses. This may depend on the rules of a state political party. Consult resources from [FairVote](#).

Note: The following allow election-day registration (as of February 2018): California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Colorado, Maine, Maryland\*, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina\*, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming (\*early-voting period only).

In Greenbelt (effective Feb. 27, 2018)<sup>7</sup>, Hyattsville, and Takoma Park, Maryland, voters age 16-18 can vote in municipal elections.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: National Council of State Legislatures, "[Preregistration for Youth Voters](#)," and FairVote, "[Voter Pre-Registration](#)." Consult your state's election administrators for any questions regarding eligibility to register or vote.

<sup>2</sup> A law was passed to eliminate pre-registration, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit invalidated it.

<sup>3</sup> Nevada [SB144](#), 2017, As Enrolled

<sup>4</sup> North Dakota is the only state that does not have voter registration.

<sup>5</sup> Iowa Secretary of State's [explanation](#) of HF516

<sup>6</sup> Sources: FairVote, "[Primary Voting at Age 17](#)" and Ballotpedia, "[Voting in Primaries at 17 Years Old](#)."

<sup>7</sup> WTOP, "[Greenbelt Lowers Voting Age to 16](#)" Jan 8, 2018