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):**

- **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, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah
- **Beginning at age 17:** Maine, Nevada (effective Jan 1, 2018), and New Jersey

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

- Alaska: 90 days before the 18th 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 18th birthday for those who will be 18 on or before election day:**

- **Starting at age 17:** Illinois (17 by primary), Iowa (effective Jan 1, 2019), 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:**

- **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.


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

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1 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.
2 A law was passed to eliminate pre-registration, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit invalidated it.
3 Nevada SB144, 2017, As Enrolled
4 North Dakota is the only state that does not have voter registration.
5 Iowa Secretary of State’s explanation of HF516
6 Sources: FairVote, “Primary Voting at Age 17” and Ballotpedia, “Voting in Primaries at 17 Years Old.”
7 WTOP, “Greenbelt Lowers Voting Age to 16” Jan 8, 2018