

Youth Poll Workers

Serving as a poll worker is a critical way to ensure that all eligible voters are able to cast ballots, and it is a unique opportunity for civic engagement. Most states permit people younger than 18 to be poll workers, with different terms in each. Below is a 50-state overview¹:

State	Conditions
Alabama	No provision for poll workers younger than 18.
Alaska	Students age 16 and up are eligible to serve if they are enrolled in high school or home school, complete required training, and are appointed to the “youth vote ambassador program” by the Director of Elections. <i>Alaska Stat. § 15.10.108</i>
Arizona	The board of supervisors can appoint a minor age 16 or older to an election board if they are a US citizen, have parental permission, undergo training, and are supervised. Service on the board must be an excused absence from school. <i>Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-531(G)-(J)</i>
Arkansas	The county board of elections, in cooperation with local youth organizations, may appoint students younger than 18 as unpaid “election pages,” who assist election officials, and must take an oath. Service as a page must be granted an excused absence from high school. <i>Ark. Code. Ann. §7-4-116, § 7-4-117</i>
California	Students age 16 or older can serve if they are a high school senior in good standing with a GPA of at least 2.5. the student can be a US citizen, or a lawful permanent resident. <i>Cal. Elec. Code § 12302</i>
Colorado	Students age 16 or older are eligible to serve if they have parental permission, are not an immediate relative of a candidate on the ballot, have not been convicted of an election offense, complete training, and are “physically and mentally able” to perform tasks. They must be paid no less than 75% of what adults are paid. <i>Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-6-101, 1-6-115(1)</i>
Connecticut	Students age 16 or 17 who are residents of the town in which they will serve can serve as checkers, translators, or machine operators if they meet residency requirements, complete training, and have permission from a parent or school principal. <i>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-235d</i>
Delaware	Political parties can nominate full time students to serve as poll workers if they will be 16 by November 1 in the year of the general election, are Delaware residents, and have signed permission of their parents and principal. The Department of Elections can also appoint US citizen students at least 16 years-old with parental and principal permission. There are limits on how many students can serve per district, and political appointees are given priority. The Department can appoint students younger than 18 enrolled at least half-time at colleges or universities in the county they will serve, if they present authorization from a faculty member or dean. <i>15 Del. Code § 4701(a)(1)-(2)</i>

¹ All information sourced from the US Election Assistance Commission’s State by State Compendium of Election Worker Laws & Statutes, 2016, <https://www.eac.gov/assets/1/28/Compendium.2016.pdf>, unless otherwise noted.

District of Columbia	Students age 16 or older who are residents of DC and enrolled in or graduated from high school or an institution of higher education are eligible. They must complete training and take an oath. <i>D.C. Code § 1-1001.05(e)(4)</i>
Florida	Those who are 16 or older <i>and</i> pre-registered to vote are eligible to serve in the county where they are pre-registered. <i>Fla. Stat. § 102.012(2)</i>
Georgia	Students age 16 or older can serve if they are US Citizens, have a GA Driver's License or ID card, have demonstrated "age appropriate academic ability" and good behavior in the past year, are residents of the county or town where they will serve, can read write and speak English, and are not related to a candidate on the ballot. Students must be supervised and may be asked for parental permission. <i>OCGA § 21-2-91</i>
Hawaii	If there are not enough people to serve as poll workers in a precinct or district, the chief election officer may designate people who are not registered voters, if they are otherwise qualified and turn 16 by June 30 on the year of the election. <i>Haw. Rev. Stat § 11-72(b)(1)</i>
Idaho	The county clerk can appoint up to two students per precinct, who serve under the supervision of other workers. Must be age 17 and a US citizen. <i>Idaho Code § 34-303(1) & (2)</i>
Illinois	Students age 17 are eligible to serve if they are enrolled in good standing in school with a GPA of at least 3.0, have permission from their parents and principal, are US citizens, and complete a training course. <i>10 ILCS 5/13-4(b)</i>
Indiana	By unanimous vote of the county board of elections, a student at least 16 years old but not older than 17 may serve. The student cannot be the presiding poll worker. Citizenship, GPA, county residence, and parental approval requirements apply. If at 14 days before the election, a county party chair has failed to make nominations, the election board may appoint students from institutions of higher learning who are registered voters in the county. <i>Ind. Code §3-6-6-13, §3-6-6-3 , §3-6-6-39</i>
Iowa	Students age 17 and up can 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. <i>IA. Code Ann. § 49.13(6)</i>
Kansas	The county election officer may appoint students at least 16 years old to be election judges or clerks if they have a recommendation letter from a school teacher, counselor, or administrator. No more than 1/3 of the board can be under 18. <i>Kan. Stat. Ann. § 25-2804(b)</i>
Kentucky	A 17 year-old who will be 18 on or before the day of the regular election may be a poll worker for the primary and regular election in which they can vote. No precinct may have more than one election officer younger than 18. <i>Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 117.045(9)</i>

Louisiana	A 17 year-old who is otherwise eligible to vote is able to serve as a poll worker in the precinct of the ward in which they would be able to vote, provided they are enrolled in the 12 th grade or homeschool equivalent, or have a GED. <i>La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §425(B)(4)</i>
Maine	People age 17 can 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. <i>21-A M.R.S.A. §503(2)(C)</i>
Maryland	A minor who is at least 16 years-old <i>and</i> is registered to vote may serve as a poll worker (<i>Md. Elect. Law Ann. §10-202(2)(ii)</i>). According to the state board of elections, a minor poll worker may be asked for parental permission and to show other qualifications.
Massachusetts	Two 16 or 17 year-old students may serve [in a given precinct] if they are MA residents and US citizens, speak, read, and write English, have permission from their parents and principal, and undergo training. Qualifies as community service time. <i>Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, §11B</i>
Michigan	A person 16 or 17 years old who has been an MI resident for at least 30 days can serve if they meet all other qualifications. At least 3 election board members must be appointed before a minor is appointed. Minors cannot chair the board. <i>Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.677(4)</i>
Minnesota	A student age 16 or older enrolled in an MN high school or homeschool can serve if they have parental and principal permission. They are appointed as a trainee election judge without party affiliation, in the county in which they reside. They must undergo training, cannot work past 10pm, and must be paid minimum wage. <i>Minn. Stat. § 204B.19 (6)</i>
Mississippi	Students at least 16 years old can serve as poll workers in the town or county in which they reside. They must be a junior or senior in high school or homeschool equivalent. No more than two students can be appointed per precinct, and they must have a recommendation from their principal or instructor. They must attend all trainings and be supervised by a manager or clerk. <i>Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-240</i>
Missouri	Those as young as 15 can serve. They must be full-time students, take an oath, show “age appropriate academic ability and demeanor” and good reputation, be fluent in English, and not be related within a 2nd degree to a candidate on a contested ballot. <i>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.104</i>
Montana	No provision for poll workers younger than 18.
Nebraska	Students age 16 and older are eligible to be appointed by county election commissioners or clerks if they meet all other poll worker requirements. No more than one student may serve per precinct. <i>Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-223(5), § 32-230(7)</i>
Nevada	County or city clerks can appoint students age 16 or older as election officer trainees if they are enrolled in high school, are US citizens, residents of the

	county in which they serve, and have parental and school permission. No more than one student may serve per precinct. Trainees must be paid the same as other members. <i>Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 293.2175; § 293.227(2); § 293.2175</i>
New Hampshire	People age 17 may be appointed as an assistant election official at the central polling place in state elections. <i>N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 658:7-a</i>
New Jersey	Those who are age 16 or 17 may serve if they are a US citizen and NJ resident, have written parental permission, and are either enrolled in secondary school or have a GED. <i>N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:6-2(a)</i>
New Mexico	No provision for poll workers younger than 18.
New York	Students age 16 or 17 enrolled in school and fulfilling their educational requirements may be appointed as an election inspector or poll clerk. <i>N.Y. Elec. Law § 3-400(8)</i>
North Carolina	Students age 17 may serve if they are enrolled in secondary school or homeschool, live in the county they will serve in, have an “exemplary” academic record, have the recommendation of their school principal, and have parental permission. <i>N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-42.1</i>
North Dakota	Students age 16 or older may serve if they are US citizens, have lived in the precinct at least 30 days before the election, and are in good standing at a secondary school institution of higher education, or have a GED. Must be given an excused absence. <i>N.D. Cent. Code § 16.1-05-02(b) &(c) & (d)</i>
Ohio	County boards of election may establish high school precinct election officer programs. Participants must live in the county, be at least 17 years old and in their senior year of high school, must declare a party affiliation, and cannot be a location manager. Only one student can serve per precinct, unless there are 6 or more officers, in which case, two may serve. School absence is excused. <i>Oh. Rev. Code §3501.22.</i>
Oklahoma	No provision for people younger than 18 serving as poll workers.
Oregon	Oregon conducts all elections by mail and uses few traditional poll workers.
Pennsylvania	The county board of elections can appoint 2 students per precinct who must be at least 17 years old, a resident of the county, enrolled in a secondary school with an “exemplary” academic record, and must have principal and parental consent. Students cannot be election judges or inspectors. <i>25 P.S. § 2672(b)</i>
Puerto Rico	No provision for poll workers younger than 18
Rhode Island	Students can serve as trainee election officials in the town in which they reside, if the student is 16 years old, and submits written parental and principal consent to the Secretary of State. The student can be paid at the same rate as other officials, but cannot serve in lieu of a regularly trained official. <i>R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-23.3</i>
South Carolina	Students can serve as poll managers’ assistants. Students must be at least 16 years old, complete required training, and must be supervised by the chairperson of the poll managers. An assistant can be appointed for every two poll managers, and the student cannot be the chairperson or clerk. <i>S.C. Code Ann. § 7-13-110</i>

South Dakota	No provision for students younger than 18 to serve as poll workers. Students age 18 and up are eligible to be excused from school if they serve as poll workers. <i>S.D. Codified Laws § 13-27-6.1</i>
Tennessee	Students age 17 years old may serve as poll workers if they meet all other requirements. They can receive both compensation and an excused absence. <i>Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-4-103(e)</i>
Texas	US citizens who are at least 16 and enrolled in school can serve as election clerks with the permission of their school. <i>Tex. Elec. Code §32.0511</i>
Utah	Students age 16 or 17 may serve as poll workers. If a person under 18 is appointed, at least one of the three members of the election board must be older than 21, and only one may be under 18. <i>Utah Code § 20A-5-601</i>
Vermont	The board of civil authority may appoint students age 16 or 17 to serve as assistant election officers in their precinct. <i>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2454(a)</i>
Virginia	No provision for poll workers younger than 18.
Washington	All voting by mail – no poll workers.
West Virginia	Those age 16 or 17 who meet all other requirements (other than being registered voters) are eligible to serve as election official trainees. <i>W. Va. Code § 3-1-29(a)(5)</i>
Wisconsin	Students age 16 or 17 enrolled in secondary school with a GPA of at least 3.0 may be appointed as election inspectors if they have parent and principal approval. Students serve only for the election for which they are appointed. <i>Wis. Stat. § 7.30(2) (am); § 7.30(6) (am)</i>
Wyoming	May be 16 years old if such person meets all other qualifications for being an elector. <i>Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 22-8-102</i>