Youth Pre-Registration and Voting

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, and Nevada (eff. Jan 1, 2018)

States that allow registration to vote beginning at another age:

- Alaska: 90 days before the 18th birthday
- Georgia, Missouri, and Iowa (until Jan 1, 2019, then age drops to 17): Registration starts at age 17.5
- 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: If you turn 18 in the 60 days before an election, register 25 to 60 days before the election

All other states: Registration before 18th birthday for those who will be 18 on or before election day:

- At age 17: Illinois, Iowa (eff. Jan 1, 2019), New Mexico, West Virginia, New Jersey

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, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa (eff. Jan 1, 2019), Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, 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.


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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1 See National Council of State Legislatures, “Preregistration for Youth Voters” and FairVote, “Voter Pre-Registration.”
2 The Washington State Legislature passed HB 1513, establishing pre-registration for 16 year olds starting July 1, 2019, and SB 6021, establishing election-day registration, effective June 30, 2019. Both were signed by the Governor on March 19, 2018.
3 A law was passed to eliminate pre-registration, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit invalidated it.
4 Enacted by Nevada SB 144 (as enrolled) in 2017. Approved by the Governor on June 12, 2017. Effective Jan 1, 2018
5 North Dakota is the only state that does not have voter registration.
6 Enacted by Iowa HFS16 at Sec.55 and Sec.64, signed by the Governor on May 5, 2017
7 Sources: FairVote, “Primary Voting at Age 17” and Ballotpedia, “Voting in Primaries at 17 Years Old.”
8 Supra at Note 7
9 In Greenbelt (eff. Feb. 27, 2018), Hyattsville, and Takoma Park, Maryland, those age 16-18 can vote in municipal elections. See Greenbelt Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2017-1; Hyattsville Code of Elections §8-12(A); Takoma Park Charter Article VI §601(1)