

## Youth Pre-Registration and Voting<sup>1</sup>

### States with pre-registration (includes those who will not be 18 by the next election):<sup>2</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>3</sup>, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah
- Beginning at age 17: Maine, and Nevada (eff. Jan 1, 2018)<sup>4</sup>

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

- Alaska: 90 days before the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for those who will be 18 on or before election day:<sup>5</sup>

- At age 17: Illinois, Iowa (eff. Jan 1, 2019)<sup>6</sup>, New Mexico, West Virginia, New Jersey
- 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>7</sup>

- All primaries: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa (eff. Jan 1, 2019)<sup>8</sup>, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland<sup>9</sup>, 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](#).

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

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> See National Council of State Legislatures, "[Preregistration for Youth Voters](#)" and FairVote, "[Voter Pre-Registration](#)."

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Enacted by [Nevada SB 144 \(as enrolled\)](#) in 2017. Approved by the Governor on June 12, 2017. Effective Jan 1, 2018

<sup>5</sup> North Dakota is the only state that does not have voter registration.

<sup>6</sup> Enacted by Iowa HF516 at Sec.55 and Sec.64, signed by the Governor on May 5, 2017

<sup>7</sup> Sources: FairVote, "[Primary Voting at Age 17](#)" and Ballotpedia, "[Voting in Primaries at 17 Years Old](#)."

<sup>8</sup> *Supra* at Note 7

<sup>9</sup> 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)