

North Carolina

Voting is the cornerstone right of our democracy. You can only have your voice and your needs reflected in government if you vote. Pre-registration is an important tool that allows people younger than 18 to vote as soon as they are eligible.

- ✓ North Carolina has pre-registration to vote starting at age 16.¹
- ✓ To pre-register, complete the regular voter registration form and submit it to your county Board of Elections, where the registration will be automatically processed before the next election in which you are eligible to vote.
 - The Voter Registration form is available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), but must be printed and mailed to your county Board of Elections.²
- ✓ For more details, see the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#) webpage. You can also [check your registration status online](#).

North Carolina does allow those younger than 18 years old to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 by the time of the general election. To pre-register and vote in a primary election, the person can only pre-register within 60 days of the registration deadline.³

North Carolina does allow 17-year-olds to serve as poll workers. A county Board of Elections office may appoint a 17-year-old person as a “student election clerk” for a specific election with all the responsibilities of an appointed election clerk. To be eligible, you must: (1) be a U.S. citizen; (2) be a resident of the county in which the student was appointed; (3) be enrolled in a secondary educational institution, including a home school in good academic standing; (4) be recommended by the school’s principal; and (5) have the consent of a parent, legal custodian, or guardian.⁴

For more information, see ACS’s resources on [pre-registration](#) and [youth poll workers](#) in all 50 states.

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.

¹ See the [North Carolina Voter Registration Application](#). In 2009, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to register to vote. In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed H.B. 589, which, among other things, eliminated that provision. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down H.B. 589 in its entirety in *North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP v. McCrory*, 831 F.3d 204 (4th Cir. 2016).

² <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voter-information/VR-Form>

³ N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 163-59

⁴ N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 163-42.1.