

## Rhode Island

*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.*

- ✓ Rhode Island has pre-registration to vote starting at age 16.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ To pre-register, just fill out the standard Rhode Island voter registration application [online](#) by clicking “Register to Vote” and then “New Online Voter Registration”. This will initiate the application.<sup>2</sup> You can download a paper voter registration form in English or Spanish [here](#).<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ You can also get a paper registration form at your local Rhode Island DMV, or by calling 401-222-2245.<sup>4</sup> You may also pre-register to vote at the time of applying for a driver’s license at the DMV. <sup>5</sup>
- ✓ When you submit your voter pre-registration, an acknowledgement notice from your local board of canvassers will be sent to your address. If you do not receive your acknowledgement notice, you can contact your local board of canvassers, [here](#).<sup>6</sup>
- ✓ You can also check your [voter registration status](#) online.

Rhode Island does not allow those under 18 to vote in the primary elections. <sup>7</sup>

Rhode Island does allow minors serve as serve as a trainee election official in the town in which they reside, if the student 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.<sup>8</sup>

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

*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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<sup>1</sup> RI Gen. Laws §17-9.1-33

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.elections.ri.gov/voting/registration.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elections.ri.gov/voting/registration.php>

<sup>4</sup> <http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/Elections/Voters/voter-registration>, Conversation with representative at Office of Secretary of the State in Rhode Island.

<sup>5</sup> RI Gen. Laws §17-9.1-7

<sup>6</sup> <http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/Elections/Voters/voter-registration>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.elections.state.ri.us/faq/#howold>

<sup>8</sup> Rhode Island General Law 17-11-12