

Student Voter Registration Guide

Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

- NH Voter Registration Deadline by mail - must be received ten (10) days prior to the election
 - ✓ Voter Registration: October 28, 2017
 - ✓ Election Day: November 7, 2017
- [Click here](#) for NH voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information
- Qualified voters may also register on Election Day at their polling place

Where to vote

You can find your polling location through the Voter Information Lookup on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

Register at School or Home?

- **Registering to vote at a school residence**
 - ✓ Students have the right to register in New Hampshire so long as they reside in the state while attending an educational institution. Intent to remain in New Hampshire after graduation is not required. Only one address may be used as a domicile for voting purposes.
- **Registering to vote at a home residence**
 - ✓ *Out-of-state students:* Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot. ([Individual State Resources](#))
 - ✓ *New Hampshire residents attending school elsewhere:* New Hampshire residents who move away for college can keep their New Hampshire voting domicile so long as they do not register or establish residency elsewhere.

Absentee Voting

Registered voters can cast an absentee ballot if they will be absent from the town of their voting domicile on Election Day or are unable to vote in person due to a disability, religious observance, or employment commitment. ([Absentee Ballot Registration Form](#))

Out-of-state students who are considering voting absentee in their home state outside New Hampshire should first determine absentee requirements in their state. Some states do not allow voting by mail for first-time voters. Also, some states require copies of identification be mailed with an absentee ballot. Out-of-state students should determine if they want to vote absentee in another state or register in New Hampshire before the New Hampshire registration deadline.

ID Requirements and Student IDs

New Hampshire requires all voters to submit photo ID at the polls or, in the absence of a photo ID, to sign an affidavit affirming their identity. The following Valid IDs are acceptable:

- ✓ Student ID
- ✓ Driver's license from any state, regardless of expiration date
- ✓ Photo ID card issued by the NH director of motor vehicles
- ✓ U.S. armed services photo ID
- ✓ U.S. passport, regardless of expiration date

First Time Voters

Some states require voters to show up in person the first time they vote in the state or in a new county. New Hampshire does not require this. If you seek to register in a state with this requirement, you should make sure you will be able to go in person to the relevant polling place on Election Day. If not, you should consider registering in New Hampshire instead.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Student Voter Registration and Voting

- **I am a student attending college out of state – can I register to vote in my college community?**

Yes. You may register to vote so you can vote in the precinct where you live in your college community if you:

- ✓ are a U.S. Citizen,
- ✓ are at least 18 years of age and
- ✓ declare your college community as your voting domicile.

Students have the right to register in their New Hampshire college community if they intend to reside there for the time being. Intent to remain in the college community after graduation is not required.

- **I've heard that if I register to vote in my college community I'll have to change my driver's license and motor vehicle registration? Is this true?**

With very few exceptions, registering to vote will have no impact on whether you will have to change your driver's license and motor vehicle registration. If you have questions about your obligations to update your driver's license and motor vehicle registration while attending school, you may contact the state's Department of Motor Vehicles ([NH Department of Motor Vehicles](#)).

- **I've heard that if I have ever registered to vote in another state, I cannot register to vote in my college community? Is this true?**

No. You can decide to change your legal residence and voter registration from another state at any time regardless of where you lived or registered to vote in the past, as long as you meet the citizenship, age, and voting domicile requirements outlined in the first question above.

- **If I register to vote in my college community, will my parents still be able to claim me as a dependent for tax purposes?**

Yes. A student's decision to register to vote in a jurisdiction other than where they lived with their parents before they left to attend college is irrelevant to whether your parents can claim you as a dependent for tax purposes. Dependency is addressed by the federal Internal Revenue Code, and has to do with your income, not your voter registration or legal residence.

- **If I register to vote in my college community, will I lose my financial aid?**

Not for the *vast majority of students* receiving financial aid. Most students attending school out of state receive financial aid from the federal government and/or the state where their college is located.

- ✓ *Federal financial aid* is not linked to state residency or voter registration.
- ✓ If you receive aid from your school's state, you would not lose it by registering to vote anywhere in the state because grants of state aid apply state-wide.
- ✓ If you receive aid from *another state or from a local town/city government other than your college community* that links receipt to your continued residence in that state or town/city, your financial aid might be affected, you should check with your financial aid provider.

- **If I register to vote in my college community, will I be dropped from my parents' health or auto insurance?**
The terms of insurance coverage are spelled out in your parents' insurance policies. Most policies allow parents to extend health and vehicle coverage to dependent children on the basis of age. It would be highly unusual for insurance coverage to be linked in any way to voter registration or the residence of a dependent; if you have any questions please refer to the individual insurance policy guidelines.

Additional Resources

- [Fair Elections Legal Network](#)
- [Campus Vote Project](#)
- [Election Assistance Commission](#)
- [Voter Registration Postcard Form and Guide](#)

This information is provided courtesy of:
Campus Vote Project and the Fair Elections Legal Network