



**★ VOTE ★**

*COLLEGE STUDENTS, YOUR  
VOTING RIGHTS ARE  
IMPORTANT...*



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

A group of four college students are sitting around a table in a library. A young man in a grey t-shirt is smiling and looking towards a young woman with glasses who is looking at a laptop. Another young woman is looking at a document, and a young man is looking at the laptop. The background is filled with bookshelves. The image has a semi-transparent blue overlay on the left side.

## Challenges to Student Voters

If you're a college student, the result of elections can potentially have a huge impact on your everyday life — but you can't make a difference in that outcome unless you actually vote. Of course, if you're a college student, and especially if you are an out-of-state college student, voting in college presents a few challenges. There is plenty of misinformation out there about how to register, making the process even harder. Luckily, all you have to do is equip yourself with the right knowledge to simplify the process. This document has all of the important information you'll need about your voting rights and registration necessities.

## How to Vote in College

Taking time to register and then eventually vote may seem like a headache, but participating in our nation's democratic process is always worth the effort. To make it easier for busy students to vote, the government allows them to send absentee ballots if they are still registered in their home state but are attending school out of state.

Absentee voters submit their ballots by mail before the election, allowing the vote to count in their state without having to travel to a hometown polling location. An out of state student can also decide to change their voter registration to their college's location, making it possible for them to vote in-person. As long as the student maintains a residence (permanent or temporary), they can register to vote. A student cannot, however, be registered in two places at once.

To vote, simply register in their home state or the state of their college. Before election day rolls around, students should also find their proper polling place. Those unsure of where they should vote can contact their state election office for more information.

# COLLEGE VOTING FAQ'S

**Q:** Does Where I Register to Vote Affect My Federal Financial Aid?

**A:** *No.*

**Q:** If I Register to Vote in Another State, Can My Parents Still Claim Me on Their Taxes?

**A:** *Yes, where you vote does will not impact your dependency status. Usually the IRS will consider you a dependent if your parents are paying for more than half of your expenses per year*

**Q:** Do I have to Change My Drivers License if I Register to Vote?

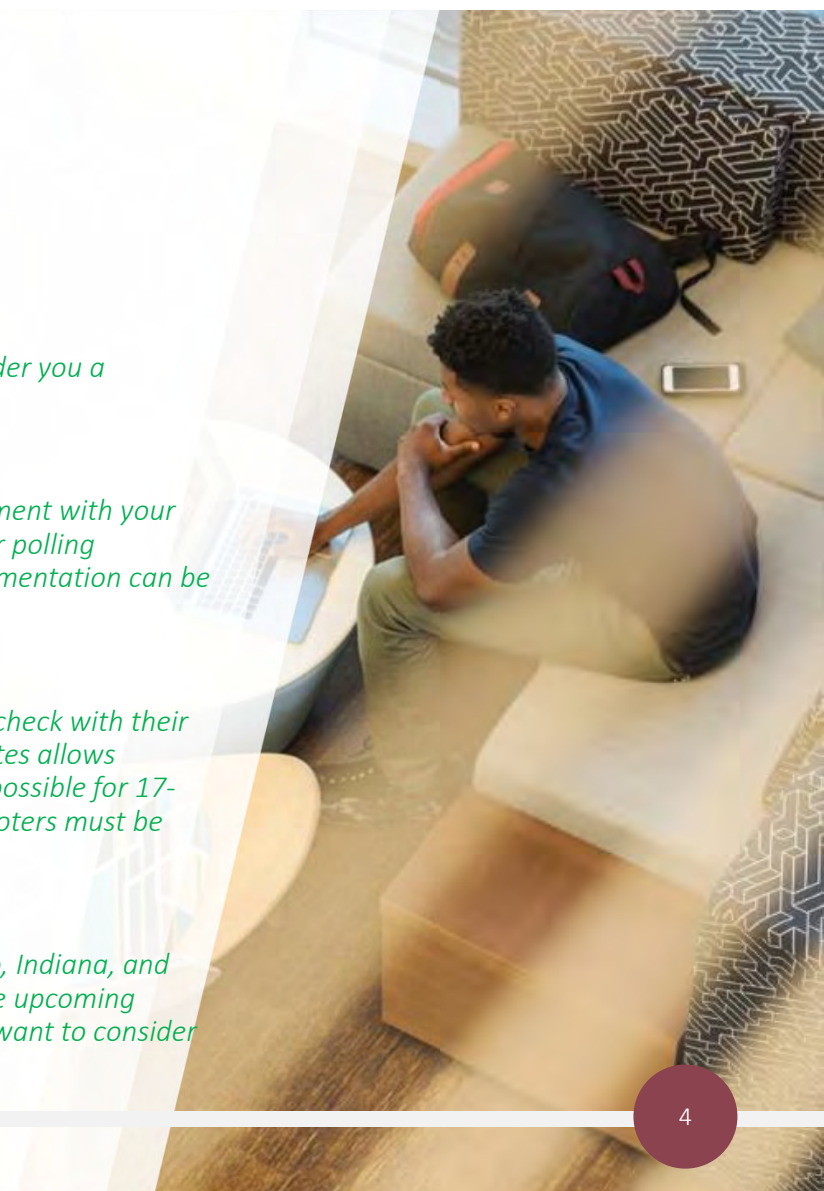
**A:** *Not necessarily, though depending on your state, you may need to present an official document with your name and current address on it. If your address has changed, you may need to provide your polling location with documentation that verifies your change of address. In most states, this documentation can be a utility bill or paycheck with your current address on it.*

**Q:** What Are the Requirements to Be Able to Vote?

**A:** *The requirements for voting in local and federal elections vary by state, so students should check with their state election office to learn more. Most states, however, have similar requirements. All states allows absentee voting. All voters must be at least 18 years of age, although some states make it possible for 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if their birthday falls before the general election. All voters must be U.S. citizens.*

**Q:** How Long Must You Live in a State to Be Able to Register to Vote?

**A:** *Rules about length of residency are set by individual states. According to USA.gov, Colorado, Indiana, and Montana require voters to have lived in their voting precinct for at least 30 days prior to the upcoming election. If an election is taking place soon after a student moves to a new state, they may want to consider staying registered in their home state for that election.*

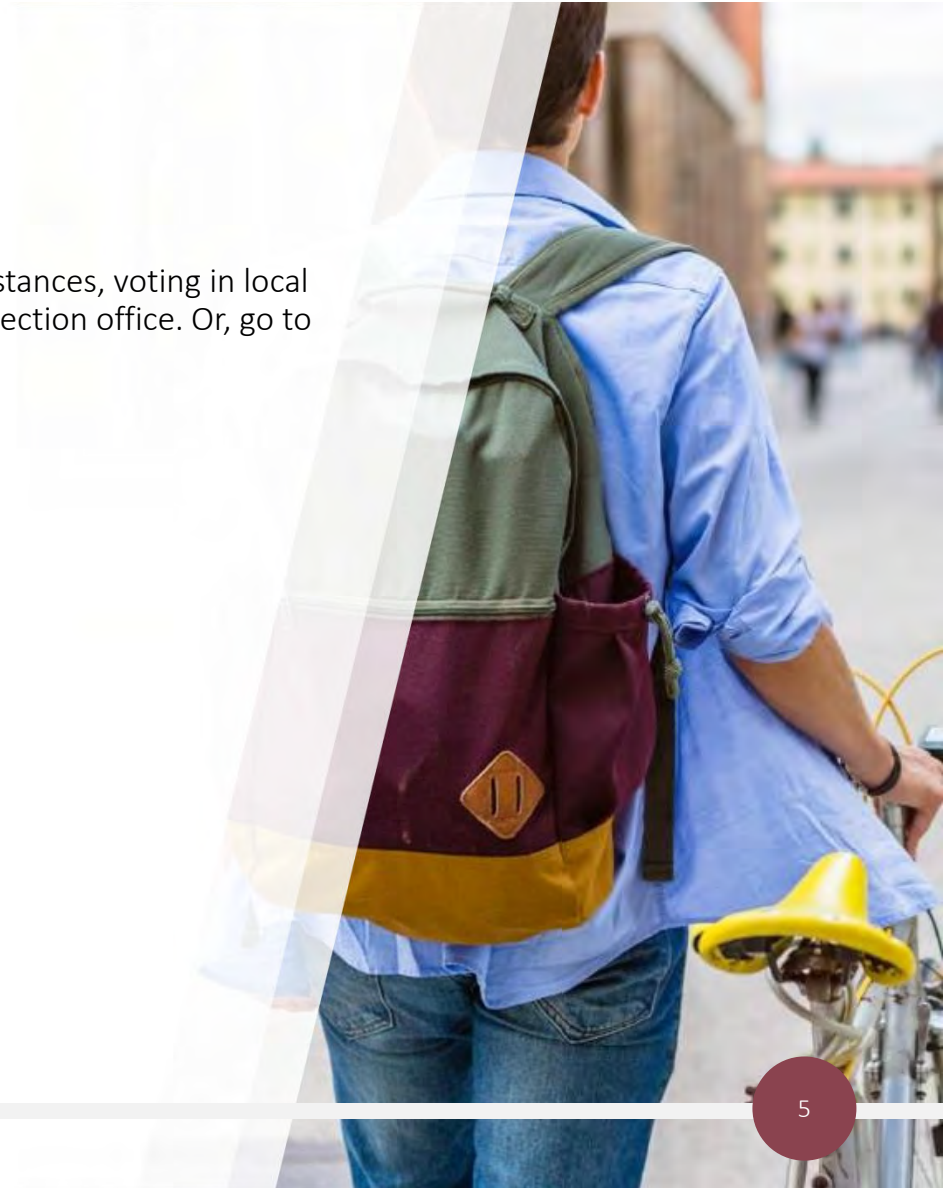




## Special Voting Circumstances

Additional Rules or Regulations may Apply for Students with Special Circumstances, voting in local and federal elections vary by state, students should check with their state election office. Or, go to [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov)

- ❖ Homeless
- ❖ Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivor
- ❖ Disability
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Military (Active Duty)
- ❖ EX-Offender





## VOTING RESOURCE'S

- Fair Elections Legal Network ( <http://fairelectionsnetwork.com/students/> )  
Information about voting in college laws in various states.
- Generation Progress ( <http://genprogress.org/issues/voting-rights/view/> )  
Organization that work with students on campus to promote political and social activism.
- Can I Vote ( <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote> )  
U.S. Map by State to locate polling stations, ID's required, and information on absentee voting.
- Rock the Vote ( <https://www.rockthevote.org/> )  
Register to vote and information about the candidate and/or issues being voted on.
- U.S. Election Assistance Committee ( <https://www.eac.gov/> )  
Comprehensive information about voting rules and regulations. Register to vote.
- USA.gov ( [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov) )  
Official U.S. Government website, Voting and Election information, Register to vote, and Rules and Regulations.

We have the freedom to choose our leaders and engage on the issues that we care about. That means we can build power in our communities and create real change. Our right to vote gives us that power.

*"You can't change the world  
But you can change the facts  
And when you change the facts  
You change points of view  
If you change points of view  
You may change a vote  
And when you change a vote  
You may change the world"*

DEPECHE MODE, "New Dress"

THANK YOU  
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*Spartan College*