Voter Pre-registration for 16 and 17-Year-Olds
Pre-register at 16. Vote at 18.

How it Works
Eligible 16 and 17-year-olds in California can pre-register to vote today and their registration will become active once they turn 18 years old.

Pre-registration of 16 and 17-year-olds was enacted in 2014 (SB 113, authored by Senator Jackson) and became effective once California certified its statewide voter registration database in September 2016.

Who is Eligible?
Any 16 or 17-year-old who is:
- A U.S. Citizen and California resident
- Not currently in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not found to be mentally incompetent by a court

What Voters Need to Know
If you are an eligible 16 or 17-year-old, you have 3 options to pre-register:

ONLINE: Anyone who meets the eligibility requirements can fill out the application online at www.registertovote.ca.gov/

If you have a California driver’s license or ID you can submit the form online. If, however, you do not have a driver’s license or ID then you will need to print the application, or have your county election official send you a copy, and mail it in.

BY PAPER: Pre-registration is available on paper registration forms and can be used by anyone. Applications are available at any county elections office, the DMV, or many other government offices. Contact your county office to have an application mailed to you or call the Secretary of State’s toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE.

IN PERSON AT THE DMV: 16 and 17-year-olds will be pre-registered to vote at the DMV when completing eligible transactions, as part of California’s Motor Voter program.

You will receive a postcard confirmation in the mail notifying you that your pre-registration application was received and processed.

* This is an excerpt from the 2018 Election Reform Primer: What Voters Need to Know. The full document is available at http://futureofcaelections.org/electionprimer2018/.
Strategies for Reaching Young People

In our increasingly digital world, it’s most effective to reach young people online with clear, actionable resources. Here are a few tips:

- Use social media platforms and leverage authentic messengers to distribute the call-to-action beyond your existing audience.
- Build on the national narratives and connect them to local issues and races with a direct call to pre-register.
- Utilize SMS to connect (i.e. send an SMS to every voter once they turn 18).
- Integrate your efforts into events they’re already attending (like a concert!).
- Cultivate an ongoing relationship outside of Election Day.

Visit the California Secretary of State website for additional voter education resources on pre-registration [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/pre-register-16-vote-18/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/pre-register-16-vote-18/)