

== WASHINGTON  SECRETARY OF STATE ==
Elections Division

Future Voter Program

Elections Clearinghouse Notice

Issue# 22-04

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This Clearinghouse is reissued to reflect legislative changes and WAC amendments. This replaces Clearinghouse #19-05, "Future Voter Registration Sign Up".

House Bill 1513, passed in 2018, created a Future Voter Program to allow preregistration of 16- and 17-year-olds. In 2020, Engrossed Senate Bill 6313 further increased opportunities for young voters by allowing 17-year-old Future Voter Program participants to vote in primaries if they will be 18 years of age by the date of the following November general election. For detailed information regarding these young voters, known as Primary-only voters, refer to the [Primary-only Voters clearinghouse notice](#).

This clearinghouse defines and outlines the provisions of the Future Voter Program and summarizes the requirements for the registration and maintenance of records for all persons under the age of 18 who have signed up to register to vote.

Future Voter Program Registration Requirements

Registration information from 16- and 17-year-olds can be submitted by mail, online via VoteWA, through the Department of Licensing, or through a designated state agency.

A future voter affirmatively acknowledges that they will not vote in a special or general election until they are 18 years old. The voter registration form was updated to include an option to make a mark affirming that applicants are at least 16 years old and will not vote in a special or general election until they turn 18 years of age. While this was included in the bill, marking the box is not required for registering under the Future Voter Program. If the box is not marked and the applicant is 16 or 17 years old according to their date of birth, treat it as a future voter registration.

Registration records are pended as future *voter* until they are at least 17 years of age and eligible to participate in a primary as a primary-only voter or until they will be 18 years of age by the date of the next special or general election. (RCW 29A.08.110)

If you receive a change of address for a Future Voter Program participant, it is recommended that you apply it to the pended registration record.

A Future Voter Program participant may request to be removed from the Future Voter Program at any time. They can voluntarily withdraw their registration information by submitting the request in writing similar to the voluntary cancellation process outlined in WAC 434-324-111.

Voter Registration Notices for Future Voters

Do not send correspondence or voter registration notices to future voters until they are considered registered to vote. RCW defines this as “when the person will be at least eighteen years old by the next election; or when the person will be at least seventeen years old by the next primary election or presidential primary election and eighteen years old by the general election, whichever is applicable.” If a future voter qualifies to vote in a primary as a primary-only voter, see the [Primary-only Voters clearinghouse notice](#) for further guidance regarding voter registration notices.

Voter registration notices and correspondence include, but are not limited to:

- Verification notices
- Acknowledgement notices
- Identification notices
- Confirmation notices

Public Disclosure and Future Voter Records

Voter Registration Information - Pursuant to RCW 29A.08.720, data from the voter registration records of all persons under the age of 18 is exempt from public inspection and copying.

Ballot Issuance and Return Information - The ballot issuance and return information for future voters eligible to vote in the next election is subject to public disclosure at the time of ballot issuance by the county auditor. When a person is eligible to participate in the next election but not yet 18 years of age, the date of birth, gender, and address of the person is exempt from disclosure when providing ballot issuance and return information in accordance with RCW 29A.40.130.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day—January 16

House Bill 1513 (2018) also requires Temperance and Good Citizenship Day registration opportunities for high school seniors. The bill directs the OSOS to provide voter registration forms (materials) to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). OSPI must disseminate the materials to schools by December 1.

The bill also directs social studies teachers to coordinate a Temperance and Good Citizenship Day event for high school seniors as part of the Future Voter Sign-up Program. County Auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate the annual event.

On Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, the legislation requires online and paper registration forms must be available to students in the classroom. The online form may be used if students have a state driver’s license, state ID card, or other identification required for online registration. Paper registrations must be available for students without required ID.

Best Practice: Create a Future Voters brochure and provide to DOL locations, schools, and for Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. Refer to the [#Future Voter FAQ](#) available on the Secretary of State's website for messaging and information.