

Students and Voting -- Frequently Asked Questions

Can I vote where I go to school in New Hampshire?

Yes. If you are at least 18 years old and a citizen, you can register to vote and vote in the town or city where you are living while you go to school in New Hampshire.

Do I have to live here for a certain amount of time before I can register to vote and vote?

No. New Hampshire does not have a length of residency requirement for voting. Even if you just moved here, you may register to vote and make this the place where you vote. New Hampshire uses the term "domiciled" to mean that a person has established a physical presence and conducts a social, cultural, work and civic life in the community. People can have more than one home but only one of those places can be declared a domicile for voting purposes.

Can I register to vote and vote even if I plan to leave New Hampshire after I graduate?

Yes. Anyone, student or not, can move anywhere at any time. You do not have to declare that you intend to remain in New Hampshire indefinitely.

If my parents claim me as a dependent for tax purposes, can I still vote in New Hampshire?

Yes. Whether or not your parents claim you as a dependent is not relevant to your eligibility to vote; domicile is not dependent on how parents make their tax decisions.

What about if I'm covered by my parents' health insurance policy?

A student (or anyone, for that matter) cannot be denied the right to vote because an insurance policy is held in some other state. For example, a worker in town who gets insurance from an employer based in another town or another state would not be barred from proving domicile in the town on that basis.

If I received a scholarship or financial aid, will that affect my right to vote where I go to college?

Major student loan and grant programs including Pell, Perkins, Stafford, PLUS, SEOG, and Federal work study are not linked to state residency or voter registration. Aid from the state of New Hampshire applies statewide. Even the most local grants are usually designed to encourage students from a community or group to pursue an education at any institution. If you have a question, check the details of your financial aid or scholarship with a school financial aid officer.

Do I have to register my car and get a New Hampshire driver's license if I register to vote?

No. The state has been ordered to remove a sentence from the voter registration form that seems to require voters to register their car in New Hampshire and get a state driver's license. Students from other states who come to New Hampshire may register to vote while they are living here, and they do not have to register their cars in New Hampshire or get state driver's licenses.



**League of Women Voters
New Hampshire**