

Table 4.16
SECRETARIES OF STATE: QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

State or other jurisdiction	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years) (a)	State resident (years) (b)	Qualified voter (years)	Method of selection to office
Alabama.....	25	7	5	★	E
Alaska.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
Arizona.....	25	10	5	...	E
Arkansas.....	18	★	★	★	E
California.....	18	★	★	★	E
Colorado.....	25	★	2	...	E
Connecticut.....	18	★	★	★	E
Delaware.....	...	...	...	...	A
Florida.....	.....	.....	(d)	.....	A
Georgia.....	25	10	4	★	E
Hawaii.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
Idaho.....	25	★	2	★	E
Illinois.....	25	★	3	...	E
Indiana.....	...	★	★	★	E
Iowa.....	18	★	...	...	E
Kansas.....	...	...	...	...	E
Kentucky.....	30	★	★	★	E
Louisiana.....	25	5	5	★	E
Maine.....	...	...	...	...	(e)
Maryland.....	...	...	...	...	A
Massachusetts.....	18	★	5	★	E
Michigan.....	18	★	★	★	E
Minnesota.....	21	★	1	★	E
Mississippi.....	25	★	5	★	E
Missouri.....	...	★	★	2	E
Montana.....	25	★	2	★	E
Nebraska.....	★	★	★	★	E
Nevada.....	25	2	2	...	E
New Hampshire.....	18	★	★	★	(e)
New Jersey.....	18	★	★	★	A
New Mexico.....	30	★	5	★	E
New York.....	18	★	★	...	A
North Carolina.....	21	★	★	★	E
North Dakota.....	25	★	5	5	E
Ohio.....	18	★	★	★	E
Oklahoma.....	31	★	★	10	A
Oregon.....	18	★	★	★	E
Pennsylvania.....	...	...	...	...	A
Rhode Island.....	18	★	30 days	★	E
South Carolina.....	...	★	★	★	E
South Dakota.....	...	...	...	...	E
Tennessee.....	...	...	...	...	(e)
Texas.....	18	★	...	...	A
Utah.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
Vermont.....	18	★	★	★	E
Virginia.....	...	...	...	...	A
Washington.....	18	★	★	★	E
West Virginia.....	...	★	★	★	E
Wisconsin.....	18	★	★	★	E
Wyoming.....	25	★	1	★	E
American Samoa.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
Guam.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
No. Mariana Islands.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....
Puerto Rico.....	...	5	5	...	A
U.S. Virgin Islands.....	.....	.....	(c)	.....	.....

Source: The Council of State Governments survey of secretaries of state offices, November 2015.

Key:

★—Formal provision; number of years not specified.

...—No formal provision.

A—Appointed by governor.

E—Elected by voters.

(a) In some states you must be a U.S. citizen to be an elector, and must be an elector to run.

(b) In some states you must be a state resident to be an elector, and must be an elector to run.

(c) No secretary of state.

(d) As of January 1, 2003, the office of Secretary of State shall be an appointed position (appointed by the governor). It will no longer be a cabinet position, but an agency head and the Department of State shall be an agency under the governor's office.

(e) Chosen by joint ballot of state senators and representatives. In Maine and New Hampshire, every two years. In Tennessee, every four years.