

TABLE 4.2
The Governors: Qualifications for Office

| State or other jurisdiction | Minimum age | State citizen (years) | U.S. citizen (years) (a) | State resident (years) (b) | Qualified voter (years) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alabama | 30 | 7 | 10 | 7 | ★ |
| Alaska | 30 | ★ | 7 | 7 | ★ |
| Arizona | 25 | 5 | 10 | ... | ... |
| Arkansas | 30 | ★ | ★ | 7 | ★ |
| California | 18 | ... | 5 | 5 | ★ |
| Colorado | 30 | ... | ★ | 2 | ... |
| Connecticut | 30 | 6 months | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| Delaware | 30 | ... | 12 | 6 | ... |
| Florida | 30 | ★ | ★ | 7 | ★ |
| Georgia | 30 | ... | 15 | 6 | ... |
| Hawaii | 30 | ... | 5 | 5 | ★ |
| Idaho | 30 | 2 | ★ | 2 | ★ |
| Illinois | 25 | ★ | ★ | 3 | ★ |
| Indiana | 30 | ... | 5 | 5 | ★ |
| Iowa | 30 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ★ |
| Kansas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kentucky | 30 | 6 | ... | 6 | ... |
| Louisiana | 25 | 5 | 5 | 5 | ★ |
| Maine | 30 | ... | 15 | 5 | ... |
| Maryland | 30 | ... | (c) | 5 | 5 |
| Massachusetts | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... |
| Michigan | 30 | ... | ★ | ★ | 4 |
| Minnesota | 25 | ... | ★ | 1 | ★ |
| Mississippi | 30 | ★ | 20 | 5 | ★ |
| Missouri | 30 | ... | 15 | 10 | ... |
| Montana | 25 | ★ | ★ | 2 | ★ |
| Nebraska | 30 | 5 | 5 | 5 | ... |
| Nevada | 25 | 2 | ... | 2 | ★ |
| New Hampshire | 30 | ... | ... | 7 | ... |
| New Jersey | 30 | ... | 20 | 7 | ... |
| New Mexico | 30 | ... | ★ | 5 | ★ |
| New York | 30 | ... | ★ | 5 | ... |
| North Carolina | 30 | ... | 5 | 2 | ★ |
| North Dakota | 30 | ... | ★ | 5 | ★ |
| Ohio | 18 | ... | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| Oklahoma | 31 | ... | 10 | 10 | (d) |
| Oregon | 30 | ... | ★ | 3 | ... |
| Pennsylvania | 30 | ★ | ★ | 7 | ★ |
| Rhode Island | 18 | 30 days | 30 days | 30 days | 30 days |
| South Carolina | 30 | 5 | 5 | 5 | ... |
| South Dakota | 18 | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| Tennessee | 30 | 7 | ★ | ... | ... |
| Texas | 30 | ... | ★ | 5 | ... |
| Utah | 30 | 5 | 3 | 5 | ★ |
| Vermont | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... |
| Virginia | 30 | ★ | ★ | ★ | 5 |
| Washington | 18 | ... | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| West Virginia | 30 | 5 | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| Wisconsin | 18 | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| Wyoming | 30 | ★ | ★ | 5 | ★ |
| American Samoa | 35 | ... | ★ | 5 | ... |
| Guam | 30 | ... | 5 | 5 | ★ |
| CNMI* | 35 | ... | ★ | 10 | ★ |
| Puerto Rico | 35 | 5 | 5 | 5 | ... |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 30 | ... | 5 | 5 | ★ |

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey of governors' offices, September 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

★—Formal provision; number of years not specified.

...—No formal provision.

(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) *Crosse v. Board of Supervisors of Elections* 243 Md. 555, 221A.2d431 (1966)—opinion rendered indicated that U.S. citizenship was, by necessity, a requirement for office.

(d) In order to file as a candidate for nomination by a political party to any state or county office, a person must have been a registered voter of that party for the six-month period preceding the first day of the filing period (26 O.S. §. 5-105A-A).