

Table 3.5
THE LEGISLATORS: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

State or other jurisdiction	House					Senate				
	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years)	State resident (years)	District resident (years)	Qualified voter (years)	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years)	State resident (years)	District resident (years)	Qualified voter (years)
Alabama	21	...	3 (a)	1	...	25	...	3 (a)	1	...
Alaska	21	...	3	1	★	25	...	3	1	★
Arizona	25	★	3	1	...	25	★	3	1	...
Arkansas	21	★	2	1	...	25	★	2	1	...
California	18	3	3	1	★	18	3	3	1	★
Colorado	25	★	...	1	...	25	★	...	1	...
Connecticut	18	...	...	★	★	18	...	...	★	★
Delaware	24	...	3 (a)	1	...	27	...	3 (a)	1	...
Florida	21	...	2	★	★	21	...	2	★	★
Georgia	21	★	2 (a)	1	...	25	★	2 (a)	1	...
Hawaii	18	...	3	(b)	★	18	...	3	(b)	★
Idaho	18	★	...	1	★	18	★	...	1	★
Illinois	21	★	...	2 (c)	...	21	★	...	2 (c)	...
Indiana	21	★	2	1	...	25	★	2	1	...
Iowa	21	★	1	60 days	...	25	★	1	60 days	...
Kansas	18	...	...	★	★	18	...	...	H	★
Kentucky	24	...	2 (a)	1	...	30	...	6 (a)	1	...
Louisiana	18	...	2	1	★	18	...	2	1	★
Maine	21	5	1	3 mo.	...	25	5	1	3 mo.	...
Maryland	21	...	1 (a)	6 mo. (d)	...	25	...	1 (a)	6 mo. (d)	...
Massachusetts	18	...	...	1	...	18	...	5	★	...
Michigan	21	★	...	(b)	★	21	★	...	(b)	★
Minnesota	18	...	1	6 mo.	★	18	...	1	6 mo.	★
Mississippi	21	...	4 (a)	2	★	25	...	...	2	4
Missouri	24	...	...	1 (e)	2	30	...	...	1 (e)	3
Montana	18	...	1	6 mo. (f)	...	18	...	1	6 mo. (f)	...
Nebraska	21	...	...	1	★	21	...	...	1	★
Nevada	21	...	1 (a)	1	★	21	...	1 (a)	1	★
New Hampshire	18	...	2	★	...	30	...	7	★	...
New Jersey	21	...	2 (a)	1	★	30	...	4 (a)	1	★
New Mexico	21	...	...	★	...	25	...	...	★	...
New York	18	★	5	1 (g)	...	18	★	5	1 (g)	...
North Carolina	(h)	...	...	1	★	25	...	2 (a)	1	★
North Dakota	18	...	1	(b)	★	18	...	1	(b)	★
Ohio	18	...	...	1	...	18	...	...	1	...
Oklahoma	21	...	...	(b)	★	25	...	...	(b)	★
Oregon	21	★	...	1	...	21	★	...	1	...
Pennsylvania	21	...	...	1	...	25	...	...	1	...
Rhode Island	18	...	...	...	★	18	...	...	...	★
South Carolina	21	...	...	(b)	★	25	...	...	(b)	★

See footnotes at end of table.

THE LEGISLATORS: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	House					Senate				
	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years)	State resident (years)	District resident (years)	Qualified voter (years)	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years)	State resident (years)	District resident (years)	Qualified voter (years)
South Dakota	21	★	2	(b)	★	21	★	2	(b)	★
Tennessee	21	★	3 (a)	1 (b)	★	30	★	3	1 (b)	★
Texas	21	★	2	1	★	26	★	5	1	★
Utah	25	★	3	6 mo. (b)	★	25	★	3	6 mo. (b)	★
Vermont	18	...	2	1	...	18	...	2	1	...
Virginia	21	...	...	★	★	21	...	...	★	★
Washington	18	★	...	(b)	★	18	★	...	(b)	★
West Virginia	18	...	5 (a)	1	★	25	...	5 (a)	1	★
Wisconsin	18	...	1	(b)	★	18	...	1	(b)	★
Wyoming	21	★	(a)	1	...	25	★	(a)	1	...
Dist. of Columbia	U	U	★	U	U	18	...	1	★	★
American Samoa	25	★(i)	5	1	...	30 (j)	★(i)	5	1	...
Guam	U	U	★	U	U	25	★	5	...	...
No. Mariana Islands	21	...	3	...	★	25	...	5	...	★
Puerto Rico (k)	25	★	2	1 (l)	...	30	★	2	1 (l)	...
U.S. Virgin Islands	21	★	...	3	★	21	★	...	3	★

Sources: State constitutions and statutes.

Note: Many state constitutions have additional provisions disqualifying persons from holding office if they are convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury or other infamous crimes.

Key:

U — Unicameral legislature; members are called senators, except in District of Columbia.

★ — Formal provision; number of years not specified.

... — No formal provision.

(a) State citizenship requirement.

(b) Must be a qualified voter of the district; number of years not specified.

(c) Following redistricting, a candidate may be elected from any district that contains a part of the district in which he resided at the time of redistricting, and reelected if a resident of the new district he represents for 18 months prior to reelection.

(d) If the district was established for less than six months, residency is length of establishment of district.

(e) Only if the district has been in existence for one year; if not, then legislator must have been a one year resident of the district(s) from which the new district was created.

(f) Shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

(g) After redistricting, must have been a resident of the county in which the district is contained for one year immediately preceding election.

(h) A conflict exists between two articles of the constitution, one specifying age for House members (i.e., "qualified voter of the state") and the other related to general eligibility for elective office (i.e., "every qualified voter . . . who is 21 years of age . . . shall be eligible for election").

(i) Or U.S. national.

(j) Must be registered matai.

(k) Read and write the Spanish or English language.

(l) When there is more than one representative district in a municipality, residence in the municipality shall satisfy this requirement.