

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	25	★	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, April 2013.

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.