

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Table 4.20
ATTORNEYS GENERAL: QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

State or other jurisdiction	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years) (a)	State resident (years) (b)	Qualified voter (years)	Licensed attorney (years)	Membership in the state bar (years)	Method of selection to office
Alabama.....	25	7	5	★	...	...	E
Alaska.....	18	★	...	...	★	★	A
Arizona.....	25	10	5	★	5	...	E
Arkansas.....	...	...	★	★	...	...	E
California.....	18	★	★	★	★	5	E
Colorado.....	27	★	2	★	★	...	E
Connecticut.....	18	★	★	★	10	10	E
Delaware.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	E
Florida.....	30	★	7	★	★	5	E
Georgia.....	25	10	4	★	7	7	E
Hawaii.....	...	1	1	...	★	(d)	A
Idaho.....	30	★	2	...	★	★	E
Illinois.....	25	★	3	★	★	★	E
Indiana.....	...	2	2	★	5	...	E
Iowa.....	18	★	★	...	...	...	E
Kansas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	E
Kentucky.....	30	...	2 (e)	...	8	2	E
Louisiana.....	25	★	5	★	★	★	E
Maine.....	...	...	...	...	★	★	(f)
Maryland.....	...	★(g)	★	★	★	10	E
Massachusetts.....	18	...	5	★	...	...	E
Michigan.....	18	★	★	...	★	★	E
Minnesota.....	21	★	30 days	★	...	...	E
Mississippi.....	26	★	5	★	5	★	E
Missouri.....	...	★	1	...	...	...	E
Montana.....	25	★	2	...	5	★	E
Nebraska.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	E
Nevada.....	25	★	2	★	...	...	E
New Hampshire.....	...	★	★	...	★	★	A (h)
New Jersey.....	18	...	★	...	...	...	A
New Mexico.....	30	★	5	★	★	...	E
New York.....	30	★	5	...	(i)	...	E
North Carolina.....	21	★	★	★	★	(i)	E
North Dakota.....	25	★	5	★	★	★	E
Ohio.....	18	★	★	★	...	...	E
Oklahoma.....	31	★	★	10	...	...	E
Oregon.....	18	★	★	★	...	...	E
Pennsylvania.....	30	★	...	...	...	...	E
Rhode Island.....	18	...	...	...	★	★	E
South Carolina.....	...	★	30 days	★	★	★	E
South Dakota.....	18	★	★	★	(i)	(i)	E
Tennessee.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	(j)
Texas.....	...	...	★	...	(i)	(i)	E
Utah.....	25	★	5 (e)	★	★	★	E
Vermont.....	18	★	★	★	...	...	E
Virginia.....	30	★	1 (k)	★	...	5 (k)	E
Washington.....	18	★	★	★	★	★	E
West Virginia.....	25	...	5	★	...	...	E
Wisconsin.....	...	★	★	...	...	...	E
Wyoming.....	...	★	★	★	4	4	A (l)
Dist. of Columbia.....	...	...	★	...	★	★	A
American Samoa.....	...	...	(c)	...	(i)	(i)	A
Guam.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
No. Mariana Islands.....	...	...	3	...	5	...	A
Puerto Rico.....	...	★	...	...	★	★	A
U.S. Virgin Islands.....	...	...	★	★	★	★	A

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey of attorneys general, state constitutions and statutes, Mar. 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 statute specifically requires this, but the State Bar Act can be interpreted as making this a qualification.

- (d) No period specified, all licensed attorneys are members of the state bar.
- (e) State citizenship requirement.
- (f) Chosen biennially by joint ballot of state senators and representatives.
- (g) *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.
- (h) Appointed by the governor and confirmed by the governor and the executive council.
- (i) Implied.
- (j) Appointed by state supreme court.
- (k) Same as qualifications of a judge of a court of record.
- (l) Must be confirmed by the Senate.