

## GOVERNORS

**Table 4.2**  
**THE GOVERNORS: QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

| <i>State or other jurisdiction</i> | <i>Minimum age</i> | <i>State citizen (years)</i> | <i>U.S. citizen (years) (a)</i> | <i>State resident (years) (b)</i> | <i>Qualified voter (years)</i> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama.....                       | 30                 | ...                          | 10                              | 7                                 | ★                              |
| Alaska.....                        | 30                 | ★                            | 7                               | 7                                 | ★                              |
| Arizona.....                       | 25                 | 5                            | 10                              | ...                               | ...                            |
| Arkansas.....                      | 30                 | ★                            | ★                               | 7                                 | ★                              |
| California.....                    | 18                 | ...                          | 5                               | 5                                 | ★                              |
| Colorado.....                      | 30                 | ...                          | ★                               | 2                                 | ...                            |
| Connecticut.....                   | 30                 | (c)                          | ★                               | ★                                 | (c)                            |
| Delaware.....                      | 30                 | ...                          | 12                              | 6                                 | ...                            |
| Florida.....                       | 30                 | ★                            | ...                             | 7                                 | 7                              |
| Georgia.....                       | 30                 | ...                          | 15                              | 6                                 | ...                            |
| Hawaii.....                        | 30                 | ...                          | 5                               | 5                                 | ★                              |
| Idaho.....                         | 30                 | 2                            | ★                               | 2                                 | ...                            |
| Illinois.....                      | 25                 | 3                            | ★                               | 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                 | ...                          | (d)                             | 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                               | 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                                | (e)                            |
| 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.....                       | 18                 | 1                            | ...                             | 4                                 | ★                              |
| Virginia.....                      | 30                 | ★                            | ★                               | ★                                 | 5                              |
| Washington.....                    | 18                 | ...                          | ★                               | ★                                 | ★                              |
| West Virginia.....                 | 30                 | 5                            | ★                               | 1                                 | ★                              |
| Wisconsin.....                     | 18                 | ★                            | ★                               | ★                                 | ★                              |
| Wyoming.....                       | 30                 | ★                            | ★                               | 5                                 | ★                              |
| American Samoa.....                | 35                 | ...                          | ★                               | 5                                 | ...                            |
| Guam.....                          | 30                 | ...                          | 5                               | 5                                 | ★                              |
| No. Mariana Islands.....           | 35                 | ...                          | ★                               | 10                                | ★                              |
| Puerto Rico.....                   | 35                 | 5                            | 5                               | 5                                 | ...                            |
| U.S. Virgin Islands.....           | 30                 | ...                          | 5                               | 5                                 | ★                              |

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey of governor's offices, March 2013.

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) Must be an elector of the state, not a state citizen.

(d) *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.

(e) 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).