

Table 3.5
THE LEGISLATORS: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

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

See footnotes at end of table.

THE LEGISLATORS: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION — Continued

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

Source: The Council of State Governments survey, February 2009.

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) In some states candidate must be a U.S. citizen to be an elector, and must be an elector to run.

(b) In some states candidate must be a state resident to be an elector, and must be an elector to run.

(c) State citizenship requirement. In Tennessee— must be a citizen for three years.

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

(e) At the time of filing.

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

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

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

(i) Or U.S. national.

(j) Must be registered matai.

(k) The district legislator must live in the municipality he/she represents.

(l) 30 days prior to close of filing for declaration of candidacy.

(m) Ten days prior to election.

(n) In the first election after a redistricting, a candidate may be elected from any district that contains a part of the district in which (s)he resided at the time of redistricting, and may be re-elected if a resident of the district (s)he represents for 18 months before re-election.