

## SECRETARIES OF STATE

**Table 4.14**  
**SECRETARIES OF STATE: QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

State or other jurisdiction	Minimum age	U.S. citizen (years)	State resident (years)	Qualified voter (years)	Method of selection to office
Alabama .....	25	7	5	★	E
Alaska .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
Arizona .....	25	10	5	.....	E
Arkansas .....	18	.....	.....	.....	E
California .....	18	★	★	★	E
Colorado .....	25	★	2	★	E
Connecticut .....	18	.....	.....	★	E
Delaware .....	.....	.....	★	.....	A
Florida .....	30	★	7	★	E
Georgia .....	25	10	4	★	E
Hawaii .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
Idaho .....	25	★	2	.....	E
Illinois .....	25	★	3	.....	E
Indiana .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	E
Iowa .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	E
Kansas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	E
Kentucky .....	30	★	2 (b)	★	E
Louisiana .....	25	5	5 (b)	★	E
Maine .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(c)
Maryland .....	.....	(d)	(d)	.....	A
Massachusetts .....	18	★	5	★	E
Michigan .....	18	★	★	★	E
Minnesota .....	21	★	★	★	E
Mississippi .....	25	5	5 (b)	5	E
Missouri .....	18	★	1	.....	E
Montana (e) .....	25	★	2	★	E
Nebraska (f) .....	19	★	.....	.....	E
Nevada .....	25	★	2	★	E
New Hampshire .....	.....	★	★	★	(c)
New Jersey .....	.....	★	★	★	A
New Mexico .....	30	★	5	★	E
New York .....	.....	18	★	★	A
North Carolina .....	21	★	★	★	E
North Dakota .....	25	★	★	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 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(c)
Texas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	A
Utah .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
Vermont .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	B
Virginia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	A
Washington .....	18	★	★	★	E
West Virginia .....	18	★	30 days	30 days	E
Wisconsin .....	18	★	★	★	E
Wyoming .....	25	★	★	★	E
American Samoa .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
Guam .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
No. Mariana Islands* .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....
Puerto Rico .....	.....	5	5	.....	A
U.S. Virgin Islands* .....	.....	.....	(a)	.....	.....

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002, and state constitutions and statutes. Information indicated by an \* is from *The Book of the States*, 2000-2001.

Note: This table contains constitutional and statutory provisions. "Qualified voter" provision may infer additional residency and citizenship requirements.

Key:

★ — Formal provision; number of years not specified.

..... — No formal provision.

A — Appointed by governor.

E — Elected by voters.

(a) No secretary of state.

(b) State citizenship requirement.

(c) Chosen by joint ballot of state senators and representatives. In Maine and New Hampshire, every two years. In Tennessee, every four years.

(d) No formal provision but customary and political tradition.

(e) No person convicted of a felony is eligible to hold public office until final discharge from state supervision.

(f) No person in default as a collector and custodian of public money or property shall be eligible to public office; no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible unless restored to civil rights.