



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.LWVNH.org

VOTING INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Prepared as a non-partisan voter service by the League of Women Voters NH.

Every citizen, 18 years old or older, has the Constitutional right to vote. State and federal laws protect the right of college students to vote in the communities where they attend college as long as they meet the other qualifications for voting.

If they prefer, students may vote where they lived before moving to college, either in person or by absentee ballot.

Each person may vote only once in any election.

To vote in New Hampshire, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older (17 year olds who will be 18 by the next scheduled election may register before their 18th birthday.)
- register to vote with the Town/City Clerk or Supervisors of the Checklist up to 6-13 days before the election, or at the polls on Election Day
- be domiciled* in the town or in the ward of the city where you are registering to vote
- have only one voting domicile and only cast one vote in any election

In New Hampshire., domicile has a different legal definition from residence. A **domicile is where you spend more time than any other single place, and where you return to after visiting someplace else. It's also where you maintain a presence for domestic, social and civil purposes relevant to participating in political affairs. You can be domiciled in NH for voting purposes even if you plan to leave in the future.*

Voting absentee:

- If you plan to vote absentee *in the state where you lived before coming to college*, you should check that state's rules for absentee voting a month or so before the election. You must also register to vote in that state. www.Vote411.org may provide information and links in other states.
- Students who are registered to vote and plan to vote absentee *in their N.H. hometown* may download an absentee ballot application from the Secretary of State's website: sos.nh.gov/RegVote.aspx
- If you are not yet registered and wish to vote in your hometown, you may register to vote absentee if you can't get home. Contact your hometown Town or City Clerk for an application form.

Tips to make registering and voting easier:

- Register to vote with the Town Clerk up to 6-13 days before the election ("black-out period" will vary with elections). It will take more time if you wait until Election Day to register at the polls.
- If you can, bring a driver's license, passport or other photo ID when you register to vote. Also bring something that shows where you live, such as mail addressed to you.

- If you don't have these documents, you may sign affidavits stating your identity, age, citizenship and where you live now.
- On Election Day, bring a photo ID such as a driver's license or student ID to the polls. If you don't have a photo ID, you may sign an affidavit saying you are who you claim to be and vote. Your ballot will be counted on Election Day with all the others.

More information about registering to vote and voting in NH is available on the Elections page of the LWVNH website: LWVNH.org

Common questions from out-of-state students going to school in NH:

Will registering to vote in New Hampshire affect my federal financial aid or any scholarships I have?

Federal financial aid such as Pell Grants, Perkins and Stafford loans, PLUS, SEOG and Federal work study will not be affected. Your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will not be affected. If your scholarship is not a federal one, you can check with the state, county, town or private entity which awarded you the scholarship to see if there are restrictions.

Will registering to vote in New Hampshire prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. It will not affect your parents' taxes.

Will registering to vote in New Hampshire affect my taxes?

Only if you have significant personal assets or tax liabilities. If so, check with your tax adviser.

Will registering to vote in New Hampshire affect my tuition?

It shouldn't. The University system will still consider you an out-of-state student as will most other schools. Check with your school's registrar if you're not sure.

Will registering to vote in New Hampshire affect my driver's license or car registration?

Your right to vote has nothing to do with your driving status or whether or not you own a car. Because a driver's license is the most common form of photo ID, the following information may be helpful to you. If you have definite plans to leave the state, after graduating for instance, state law prohibits you from getting a N.H. driver's license or registering your car in the state. If you move here from out of state and don't drive, you don't need to change your license that was issued in another state. If you are a driver and decide to make N.H. your home indefinitely, you should contact the N.H. Department of Motor Vehicles about their regulations.

Further details on voting for college students are available on the Secretary of State's website: sos.nh.gov/CollegeStudent.aspx