

## Countries where under 18s can vote

As part of CRIN's policy work on minimum ages affecting children, we monitor these ages around the world. This document sets out the minimum ages to vote in countries that grant suffrage to people under the age of 18.

Please contact us at [info@crin.org](mailto:info@crin.org) if you are aware of any inaccuracies in this information or reforms underway to amend the minimum age to vote in any State.

### Over-16s

Argentina<sup>1</sup>

Austria<sup>2</sup>

Brazil<sup>3</sup>

Cuba<sup>4</sup>

Dominican Republic (only if married)<sup>5</sup>

Ecuador<sup>6</sup>

Estonia (only in local elections)<sup>7</sup>

Germany (only in some local and state elections)<sup>8</sup>

Hungary (only if married).<sup>9</sup>

Malta (only in local elections)<sup>10</sup>

Nicaragua<sup>11</sup>

Slovenia (only if employed)<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Law 27,774 on Citizenship Rights promulgated in 2012, Article 1. Available at: <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/200000-204999/204176/norma.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Constitution of Austria, Article 23A and 26. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Austria\\_2013?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Austria_2013?lang=en).

<sup>3</sup> Constitution of Brazil, Article 14(1)(ii)(c). English translation available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Brazil\\_2017?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Brazil_2017?lang=en).

<sup>4</sup> Constitution of Cuba, Article 131. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Cuba\\_2002?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Cuba_2002?lang=en).

<sup>5</sup> Constitution of Dominican Republic, Articles 21 and 208.

<sup>6</sup> Constitution of Ecuador, Article 62(2). Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ecuador\\_2015?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ecuador_2015?lang=en).

<sup>7</sup> Constitution of Estonia, Articles 57 and 156. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Estonia\\_2015?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Estonia_2015?lang=en).

<sup>8</sup> Break down of voting ages available at: [http://www.der-mindestlohn-wirkt.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/ml/informationen-zum-mindestlohngesetz-im-detail.pdf;jsessionid=4ABF108CE80B3211A6756C81DEC0C047?\\_blob=publicationFile](http://www.der-mindestlohn-wirkt.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/ml/informationen-zum-mindestlohngesetz-im-detail.pdf;jsessionid=4ABF108CE80B3211A6756C81DEC0C047?_blob=publicationFile).

<sup>9</sup> Constitution of Hungary, Article XXIII(1). Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Hungary\\_2016?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Hungary_2016?lang=en). From 16, reported by OSCE at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/hungary/121098?download=true>. Guidance from the National Election Office available at: <http://www.valasztas.hu/web/national-election-office/voters-registration>.

<sup>10</sup> Constitution of Malta, Article 57. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Malta\\_2016?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Malta_2016?lang=en). Local Councils Act, Section 5(1). Available at: <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8833>.

<sup>11</sup> National Election Law, Article 33.

<sup>12</sup> Constitution of Slovenia, Article 43. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Slovenia\\_2013?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Slovenia_2013?lang=en). Council of Europe Explanatory Memorandum, available at: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=13110&lang=en>.

Switzerland (local elections)<sup>13</sup>

United Kingdom jurisdictions: Isle of Man (local elections);<sup>14</sup> Guernsey (local elections),<sup>15</sup>

Jersey (local elections);<sup>16</sup> Scotland (only in local and Scottish Parliament elections)<sup>17</sup>

The Council of Europe reports that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia have lowered the voting age to 16 for young people who work and pay taxes, but CRIN has been unable to confirm this.<sup>18</sup> The Council of Europe also reports that it is possible for people under the age of 18 to vote in local elections the Philippines if they are married, but CRIN has been unable to confirm this.<sup>19</sup>

### Over-17s

Greece (can vote if they turn 18 in the year of the election)<sup>20</sup>

Indonesia (but no threshold if married)<sup>21</sup>

Israel (only in local elections)<sup>22</sup>

Korea, Democratic People's Republic<sup>23</sup>

Norway<sup>24</sup>

Timor-Leste<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Only in the canton of Glarus. Council of Europe Explanatory Memorandum, available at: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=13110&lang=en>.

<sup>14</sup> Government of the Isle of Man, Guidance on registering to vote. Available at: <https://www.gov.im/registertovote>

<sup>15</sup> Government of Guernsey, *Elections and voting*. Available at: <https://www.gov.gg/elections>.

<sup>16</sup> Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002, Section 5(1)(a). Available at: <https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/revised/Pages/16.600.aspx>.

<sup>17</sup> Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015, Section 1. Available at: [http://www.bailii.org/scot/legis/num\\_act/2015/asp\\_20157\\_en\\_1.html](http://www.bailii.org/scot/legis/num_act/2015/asp_20157_en_1.html).

<sup>18</sup> Council of Europe, *Voting at 16 - Consequences on youth participation at local and regional level*, CG/2015(29)8Final. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168071a5ed>.

<sup>19</sup> Council of Europe, *Voting at 16 - Consequences on youth participation at local and regional level*, CG/2015(29)8Final. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168071a5ed>.

<sup>20</sup> Hellenic Parliament guidance. Available at: <http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Vouli-ton-Ellinon/To-Politevma/Ekloges/>.

<sup>21</sup> Law 8/2012, Article 1(25). English translation available at: [https://anfrel.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/IFES-Indonesia-Unofficial-Translation-of-Law-82012-on-Legislative-Elections-v1\\_2012-06-14.pdf](https://anfrel.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/IFES-Indonesia-Unofficial-Translation-of-Law-82012-on-Legislative-Elections-v1_2012-06-14.pdf). Inter-Parliamentary Union, Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (House of Representatives). Available at: [http://archive.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2147\\_B.htm](http://archive.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2147_B.htm).

<sup>22</sup> Basic Law. The Knesset 1958, Article 5. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Israel\\_2013?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Israel_2013?lang=en).

<sup>23</sup> Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Article 66. Available at: [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Peoples\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_1998?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Peoples_Republic_of_Korea_1998?lang=en)

<sup>24</sup> Representation of the People Act 2002 (as amended), Chapter 2, Section 2-1(a). Note, children are able to vote from the age of 17 where they will turn 18 by the end of the year in which the election is held. Available at:

<http://aceproject.org/ero-en/regions/europe/NO/norway-representation-of-the-people-act-2002/view>.

<sup>25</sup> Law on the Election of the National Parliament, Article 4(1). Available at: [http://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/parliamentary\\_election\\_law\\_english.pdf](http://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/parliamentary_election_law_english.pdf).