



Underage Voter Registration: Policy and Procedures

Policy

1. County Auditors will reject the voter registration application of any applicant who is **under** the age of 17 on the day of initial processing, and shall notify the applicant of the rejection.
2. If the date of the next election is known when the voter registration application of a 17-year-old is initially processed, the applicant may be registered if he/she will be 18 on or before the date of the upcoming election.
3. If, during initial processing, either the date of the next election is not known or the applicant will not be 18 on or before the date of the next known election, a registration application from a 17-year-old must be pended.
4. If an underage applicant is found in the VRDB, the voter registration for that ineligible voter must be either pended or cancelled.

Procedures

Pending Voter Registrations from 17-year-old Applicants

Voter Registration applications from 17-year-olds may be pended by:

- a) Storing the records electronically in a pending status;
- b) Leaving online registration packets unprocessed in the county's queue; and/or
- c) Retaining paper applications in a file specific to applications from 17-year-olds.

Reviewing Pended Registration Applications

No later than 45 days before an election, County Auditors shall search pended registrations for 17-year-olds that are eligible to vote in the upcoming election. Those not eligible for the upcoming election must remain in the pended file.

Auditing the VRDB for Underage Registrations

County Auditors shall ensure that erroneous underage registrations are identified by frequently viewing the "Under 18" report of the VRDB.

Beginning 30 days prior to a statewide election, the Secretary of State will conduct a daily check of the VRDB for registrations of underage voters. If any are found, the relevant County Auditor will be notified.

Note: County Auditors who are notified of an erroneous registration in the VRDB shall correct the error within *two* working days. Counties with VR systems that cannot return voter registrations to a “pending” status in the VRDB must submit a request for assistance from VR Support.

Searching Ballot Printing Lists for Underage Registrations

If the election management system used by a County Auditor provides an “under 18” search of ballot production lists, the Auditor will use that check to avoid issuing ballots to underage applicants.

Notification from the Secretary of State

If the Secretary of State identifies an instance of voting by an underage applicant, the Secretary of State will notify the County Auditor.

RCW 29A.84.010 contains the procedures that the County Auditor must follow in response to suspected irregularities in voting.