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35% of Maryland Teens are Pre-registered to Vote

County rates range from 18% to 46%

Los Angeles, CA -- High school students in Maryland can pre-register to vote when they are 16 or 17 years old. Students who pre-register are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18.

According to a new analysis released today by The Civics Center, 35% of 16- and 17-year olds in the state are pre-registered to vote. [The Civics Center](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes high school voter registration and civic engagement.

In 2010, Maryland's [pre-registration law](#) took effect to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. Pre-registered [17-year-olds are allowed to vote in the Primary Election](#)--excluding special and municipal elections--if they turn 18 on or before the General Election. The state also encourages pre-registered 16-year-olds to become involved by becoming an [election judge--responsible](#) for ensuring accessible and fair elections for all eligible voters by overseeing voting procedures.

As of 2018, Maryland became the 18th state to adopt [Election Day Registration](#), allowing eligible citizens to register to vote and cast their ballots at the same time during the early voting period through election day.

Despite the state's efforts to engage its citizens in the electoral process, more than half of the counties in Maryland have a pre-registration rate lower than 40%.

In Baltimore City County, which has one of the highest populations of 16- and 17-year-olds, the pre-registration rate is 18%. With one of the lowest populations of 16- and 17-year-olds, by contrast, Carroll County has the highest pre-registration rate at 46%.

"Pre-registering teens is vital to getting young people to vote and ensuring they have an opportunity to shape their future," said The Civics Center's Director Laura W. Brill, a practicing attorney and former law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "Schools, students, and communities working collaboratively can use preregistration to dramatically increase youth civic engagement," Brill said. The Civics Center offers resources to high schools to promote voter registration.

"We're telling people that we value their vote and their participation," [said Maryland Delegate Kirill Reznik, D-Montgomery](#). "Some states are making efforts to close the ballot box...In Maryland, I'm proud of everything we've done to open it."



Maryland Pre-registration by County

Descending by percentage pre-registered

Maryland County	# pre-registered as of 7/29/19	Estimated % pre-registered as of 7/29/19
Carroll	2,236	46%
Talbot	354	45%
Queen Anne's	602	44%
Frederick	3,035	42%
Howard	3,973	41%
Calvert	1,162	41%
Harford	2,760	40%
Garrett	287	40%
Anne Arundel	5,310	38%
Montgomery	10,551	38%
St. Mary's	1,123	36%
Charles	1,682	36%
Washington	1,400	36%
Worcester	403	35%
Cecil	989	34%
Allegany	488	33%
Baltimore	6,538	32%
Caroline	293	32%
Wicomico	823	31%
Kent	106	28%
Prince George's	5,891	28%
Dorchester	197	25%
Somerset	109	23%
Baltimore City	2,174	18%

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Based on data provided by the Maryland State Board of Elections and United States Census Bureau.

About The Civics Center.

The Civics Center is dedicated to building the foundations of youth civic participation in high schools through education, research, advocacy, and volunteer organizing. The Civics Center is a project of Community Partners, a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, please visit www.TheCivicsCenter.org.

For our reports on pre-registration in [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Oregon](#), [West Virginia](#), [Utah](#), [Delaware](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Massachusetts](#), please see our prior posts in the links provided.

Contact: Laura W. Brill, lwb@thecivicscenter.org, 310-272-7922.