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**YOU
Can
VOTE!!**

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Being a **US CITIZEN** is like being a “**member**” of a **club**. The club is the United States.

Like most clubs, there are **RULES** about who is a **MEMBER**.

For example, people who are born in the UNITED STATES are citizens.

People who were born in a different country can become a US citizen. This is called **NATURALIZATION**. To become a US Citizen, a person must:

Apply (answer questions about their background and why they want to be a citizen)

Take a Test about the United States

Tell a Judge why they want to be a US Citizen

** The judge decides if they can become a Citizen. If the judge says yes, the person must swear a pledge and then they are a citizen.

Once they are a US Citizen, a person can vote!!



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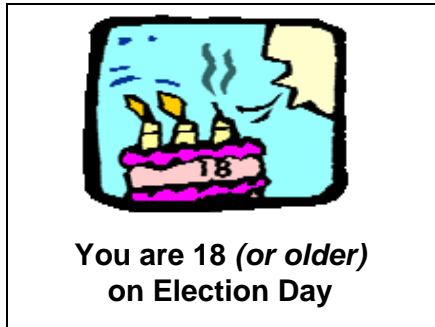


To Vote In Rhode Island You Must Be a Registered Voter At Least 30 Days Before A Primary Or Election.

When you REGISTER TO VOTE you are signing an OATH. The OATH is an official pledge. When you sign it you are making a PROMISE that you really are eligible to vote.

If you cannot sign your name, you can still complete the registration form. It's ok to MAKE YOUR MARK.

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You don't need to be 18 when you register, but MUST BE 18 on or before ELECTION DAY!

You can be older than 18 to vote. Once you turn 18, there's no limit on how old you are.

QUESTION: (show of hands) How many people are 18 (or older)? GREAT! All of you are old enough to vote.

But there are still a few other requirements ...

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A FELONY is a VERY BAD crime (for example: MURDER). A FELONY is different that a MISDEMEANOR. A MISDEMEANOR is not as bad a crime (for example: SHOPLIFTING a pair of \$30 jeans).

If you commit a FELONY, you are called a FELON. FELONS cannot vote!

To be eligible TO VOTE in RI you must NOT:



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Be in jail or serving a sentence for conviction of any felony.

Be on parole or probation for conviction of any felony.

Be under any suspended sentence, probation or parole - regardless of a nolo contendere plea - for any felony committed after November 5, 1986.

NOLO CONTENDRE basically means "I have nothing to say". If you plead NOLO CONTENDRE it means you aren't admitting your were guilty, but you're also not saying that you're innocent.)

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If a judge has determined that a person is not able to make ANY decisions for themselves, they say the person is **MENTALLY INCOMPETENT**.

A person who is **MENTALLY INCOMPETENT CANNOT VOTE!**

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Who can Vote? YOU CAN IF:

- You are a US Citizen
- You are 18 or older on Election Day
- You are Registered (on time)
- You are NOT a Felon!
- You have NOT been found Mentally Incompetent in a court of law!

If you meet all these requirements, you are eligible to vote!

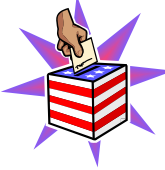


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Your
VOTE means
you have
POWER ...


... but **ONLY** if you use it!

QUESTIONS (to get conversation going):

Do you think your vote means you have **POWER**? (Why? Why not?)

What would happen is **NO ONE** voted?

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**Get out and
VOTE!**

YOU can do it!

If you are eligible to vote, then the only thing left to do is **USE YOUR POWER!**

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