

Motor Vehicle Division Policy Memo # 18-11

Voter Registration Age

DATE: December 19, 2018

FROM: Darcy Doty, Director, Driver & Identification Services

TO: All Driver and Identification Services (DIS) staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff that issue driver's licenses and non-operator's identification cards.

SUBJECT

This policy memo explains a change to Iowa Code chapter 48A (Voter Registration) that changes the minimum eligible age to register to vote in Iowa from 17 ½ to 17.

SUMMARY

Iowa Code section 48A.18 requires each driver's license application to serve as an application to register to vote unless the customer declines to register to vote. It is our current practice to ask customers seeking a driver's license (DL) or identification card (ID) who are 17 ½ years or older, and are otherwise qualified, if they would like to apply to register to vote. We also have voter registration application functionality on our driver's license kiosks and on MyMVD. However, because Iowa Code chapter 48A was amended to change the minimum eligible age to register to vote in Iowa from 17 ½ to 17, beginning January 1, 2019, we will need to adjust our procedures to accommodate the change. **This requirement will become effective January 1, 2019.**

LINK TO IOWA ACTS

2017 Iowa Acts, Ch. 110, Division VIII:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/iactc/87.1/CH0110.pdf>

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide information regarding new procedures and procedures that are being eliminated or changed. This information will be helpful to you and to customers.

HOW WILL THE NEW LAW LOWERING THE VOTER REGISTRATION TO AGE 17 IMPACT ME?

Beginning January 1, 2019, if you are serving a customer that is age 17 or older, you will need to adjust your practices and ask that customer if they wish to apply to register to vote. ARTS programming will be updated to no longer gray out the Voter Registration screen if the customer is age 17. The paper brochure (MM017) that sits by the signature pad will also be updated to reflect the new voter registration age is 17.

WILL MYMVD BE UPDATED TO ALLOW 17 YEAR OLDS TO APPLY TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

Yes. Programming changes are also being made to MyMVD to allow customers age 17 or older to apply to register to vote.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIOSKS?

There are no programming changes needed for the kiosks because only customers age 18 and older are eligible to use a kiosk.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHANGES TIED TO APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION THAT I NEED TO BE AWARE OF?

Not at this time. The only change to the application for voter registration being implemented on January 1, 2019 that affects DOT is the change to lower the voter registration age from 17 ½ to 17.