

QUESTION:

We have a passionate 17 year old who would be great on the trustee board. Is there an age requirement to be a candidate for elected office?

ANSWER:

RSA 669:6 (Qualification of [Town] Officers:

1. To be an official, one must have a domicile, however a person under age 18 has the domicile of his or her parents, and cannot determine that alone.
2. CHAPTER 21 – STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION
Section 21:44 Age of Majority; Adults. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the words "adult", "majority", "age of majority", "full age or lawful age", and all other terms of referring to those persons who are to be considered adults, shall mean those persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

QUESTION:

We have a great candidate for the Board, but naturally, he's not a resident. Can he still run for the office of Library Trustee?

ANSWER:

1. **RSA 669:6 Qualification of Officers.** – Unless otherwise provided by law, no person shall hold an elective town office who does not have his domicile within the town.
Source. 1979, 410:1, eff. July 1, 1979.
2. An exception would be if your public library is a private non-profit organization rather than a municipally funded entity. Even then, one or more Trustees may need to be elected and would have to be a resident. If a non-profit board is the governing board, check the organization's charter, endowment, or bequest.
3. Another exception would be those few cities (13) in NH where Trustees are appointed rather than elected. Check the city charter.

QUESTION:

Does a candidate have to be a citizen of the US?

ANSWER:

Yes, see RSA 91:2 below:

CHAPTER 91 – ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE; REMOVAL

Section 91:2 Aliens. – No person is eligible to hold any municipal office, elective or appointive, who is not a citizen of the United States.

Source. 1949, 214:2, eff. May 26, 1949.