

Historical U.S. Draft Registration and Enrollment

Year	Description
Pre-1861	No federal system, state militias, most with different rules
1863	Enrollment Act of 1863; involuntarily called men to service
1917	May 18; Selective Service Act of 1917 passed by Congress
1917	1st registration - June 5; men aged 21 to 31
1918	2nd registration – June 5; men turning 21 after 1 st registration; supplemental on August 24 for men turning 21 after June 5
1918	3rd registration – September 12; all men aged 18 to 45
1940	September 16; President Roosevelt signs peacetime Selective Service Act
1940	1st registration – October 16; For men born between 17 October 1904 and 16 October 1919 (ages 21-35) living within the continental United States.
1940	Initial draft – October 29; A man had to be between 21 and 45, at least 5' tall and no taller than 6'6", weigh at least 105 lbs., have vision correctable with glasses, and have at least half his teeth. He had to be able to read and write, and not have been convicted of a crime.
1941	2nd registration – July 1; For men born between 17 October 1919 and 12 July 1920 who had turned 21 since the first registration & men from the first draft who did not register. The prefix "S" preceded the serial #.
1942	3rd registration – February 16; For men born between 17 February 1897 and 31 December 1921 (ages 20-45) who had not previously registered. The prefix "T" preceded the serial #.
1942	4th registration – April 27 (Old Man's Draft); born between 27 April 1877 and 16 February 1890. The prefix "U" preceded the serial number.
1942	5th registration – June 30; For men born between 1 January 1922 and 30 June 1924 (ages 18-20). – The prefix "N" preceded the serial #.
1942	6th registration – December 10-31; For men born between 1 July and 31 December 1924 (men who had turned 18 after 12 November 1942.) The prefix "W" preceded the serial #.
1943	Additional registration – November 16-December 31; For American citizens living abroad between the ages of 18 and 45.
1947-49	Men aged 18 to 26 were required to register.
1950-53	Men aged 18 to 26 were required to register. Deferments were available for students, some fathers, farmers and other occupations which supported the national interest.
1953-71	Men aged 18 to 26 were required to register. Student, fatherhood, occupational and agricultural deferments
1970	Vietnam Lottery; December 1, 1969; applied to year of birth 1944-50
1971	Vietnam Lottery; July 1, 1970; applied to year of birth 1951
1971	Deferments were phased out.
1972	Vietnam Lottery; August 5, 1971; applied to year of birth 1952
1973	Vietnam Lottery; February 2, 1972; applied to year of birth 1953
1974	Vietnam Lottery; March 8, 1973; applied to year of birth 1954
1975	Vietnam Lottery; March 20, 1974; applied to year of birth 1955
1976	Vietnam Lottery; March 12, 1975; applied to year of birth 1956
1975	Registration was suspended April 1, 1975 by Presidential Proclamation
1980-	Men are required to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday