

Draft FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions About the Draft

from NoDraftNoWay.org

Is the Draft coming back?

Although politicians claim that there is no possibility of a draft coming back, the Pentagon is in desperate need of soldiers. It doesn't have enough troops to maintain the occupation of Iraq. Enlistment rates are down and the Reserves and National Guard are stretched to the breaking point.

There are many indications that the Selective Service System (SSS) is preparing to re-institute the draft. The SSS is staffing local draft boards, training volunteer registrars to work in high schools and college campuses, and streamlining its induction process. The agency recently requested access to the Department of Education computer files in order to ensure maximum registration. On March 31, 2005, the SSS will report to the President that it is ready to implement a draft within 75 days.

What is the Health Care Personnel Delivery System?

The Health Care Personnel Delivery System ("medical draft") was authorized by Congress in 1987 to deal with possible shortages of medical personnel. If implemented, the bill would require a mass registration of male and female health care workers between the ages of 20 and 45.

What is the Special Skills Draft?

The Pentagon is considering a "special skills"

draft, to include linguists, computer experts, or engineers, and other skills that the military may be in need of. Lewis Brodsky, acting director of the Selective Service System, has said that this type of draft is a "priority."

Will the draft include women?

Previously, the draft has not included women, and women are not currently required to register. However, several members of Congress and officials with the Selective Service System have proposed including women in the draft.

Who is required to register for the draft?

If you are a male U.S. citizen or immigrant living in the U.S. age 18-25, you are most likely required by Federal Law to register with the Selective Service.

How will the draft work?

A lottery based on date of birth will determine the order in which registrants are called up by Selective Service. The first to be called, in a sequence determined by the lottery, will be those whose 20th birthday falls during that year, followed, if needed, by those aged 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. In other words, under present law, which might change with a new draft, Selective Service would first select randomly among those who turned 20 in the calendar year of the call-up.

How can I prepare to be classified as a Conscientious Objector?

If you plan to claim CO status, you need to begin building a file now. Your file should include (at minimum): A written statement of your beliefs; Letters of support attesting to your beliefs; and other evidence to support your CO claim, such as photos of yourself at anti-war events, records of subscription to antiwar publications, etc.

What happens if I don't register?

Statistically, not registering is the best way to avoid being drafted. However, not registering can bring serious penalties. The penalty for failing to register can be up to five years in jail and/or a fine of up to \$250,000, but prosecution is not the most immediate problem for young people today--the government has not charged anyone with failing to register in 20 years. The real problem is that young men who do not register lose access to Federal Financial Aid, Federal jobs, and Federal job training. Many states also require registration with Selective Service before issuing a driver's license.

Is there an exemption for students?

Unlike the Vietnam-era draft, which included exemptions for full time students, current Selective Service policy will only provide for a deferment until the end of the current semester. Seniors in college will receive a derferment until the end of the school year.

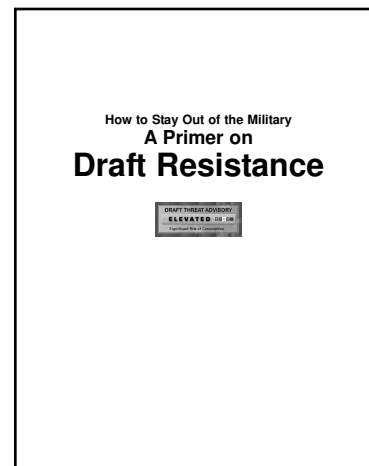
Is there an exemption for an only child?

Contrary to popular belief, there is no exemption for an only child.

What can we do to stop the Draft?

- 1) Become a NoDraftNoWay.org organizer in your area.
- 2) Download the NoDraftNoWay literature and begin to get the word out in your school, union, place of worship, and work-place.
- 3) Expose the "Economic Draft" already in place by providing counter-recruiting information to young people and organizing demonstrations outside recruiting centers.
- 4) Organize local demonstrations at the site of your local Selective Service office.
- 5) Organize a No Draft, No Way meeting in your school, place of worship, union hall, etc. Contact No Draft No Way for more information or for a speaker. email: organize@NoDraftNoWay.org or call 212-633-6646.

For more information, visit;
NoDraftNoWay.org
Download the PDF:
*"How to Stay Out of the Military, a
Primer on Draft Resistance."*



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