

Resolution in Support of Lowering the Voting Age to 16 for Local Elections

Patrons: Adrian Klatis, Matthew Savage

Whereas, Delegate Sam Rasoul has introduced HJ 86, an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia to lower the minimum voting age to 16 for local elections;

Whereas, Lowering the voting age to 16 has been endorsed by the Young Democrats of America at their National Committee meeting of August 9, 2020¹;

Whereas, 16 and 17-year-olds can be charged as adults and are expected to follow laws they have no representation in creating;

Whereas, Many young people are employed and contribute massively to their households like their adult counterparts yet are denied the same rights;

Whereas, Internationally, 25 countries have allowed citizens under the age of 18 to vote in either local or national elections;

Whereas, At the age of 16, people have developed their “cold cognition,” which is a decision making process less dependent on emotion and more dependent on logic and critical analysis;

Whereas, Lowering the voting age will build the habit of voting in local elections in young people by granting them additional time to familiarize themselves with the system of voting;

Whereas, Voter turnout among adults in local government races, especially in Virginia, has been sub-par, and youth are more energetic and enthusiastic to become first-time voters;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Teen Caucus of the Virginia Young Democrats supports allowing anyone who is at least 16 years old and meets all other voting requirements the right to vote in Virginia local elections.

¹ <https://www.yda.org/sites/default/files/Summer%202020%20Resolutions.pdf>

Teen Caucus of the Virginia Young Democrats

Resolved, That the Teen Caucus of the Virginia Young Democrats urges all Democratic members of the Virginia General Assembly to support HJ 86, a Virginia constitutional amendment to lower the minimum voting age to 16 for local elections.