

## Email Template for EMPOWER Act, to send after talking to a rep or staffer on the phone

Dear Representative/Senator [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]:

My name is [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] and I am a constituent in your district. I briefly spoke with [name of staff person spoken to earlier] today about having Representative/Senator [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]'s support for the EMPOWER Act (HD1132), which would give cities and towns the option to set the local voting age at 16 or 17 for municipal elections. This email is following up on that call to provide more information about the legislation.

This issue matters to me personally because: **[FILL IN ONE OR TWO REASONS HERE! Suggested prompts are below]:**

FOR GENERAL PUBLIC: I know that democracy works best when more people participate, and right now we struggle with low voter turnout in local elections. Setting the local voting age at 16 or 17 can help young people establish the habit of voting and become lifelong voters. This bill would give cities and towns the freedom to make the choice to implement this policy locally if they wish to do so.

FOR STUDENTS: As a young person, I know that I have a stake in the decisions that my elected officials make on the local level, and I wish to advocate for **[CITY/TOWN]** to set the municipal voting age at 16 for our local elections. This bill would let me do that.

FOR REPS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OTHER PRO-VOTING MEASURES (RVC, AVR, ETC): I know that Representative [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] has been a strong champion of other measures to increase voter turnout and modernize elections, and I really appreciate your commitment to this important issue. Similarly, this bill allows cities to implement another innovation that can lead to increased voter turnout in the long run.

This bill simply allows cities and towns to make this change for their local elections without going through the home rule petition process.

The bill would not force any cities or towns to make the change. And people who want to see a lower voting age in their cities would still have to advocate for it on the local level. By doing this advocacy, young people will learn even more about the civic process.

In recent years, 5 cities and towns have approved 16/17 year old voting on the local level and sent home rule petitions to the state legislature asking permission to implement it. More are in the works, in cities including Northampton, Somerville, Boston, and more.

Additional information is attached. I hope we can count on your support for HD1132!

Sincerely,

**[YOUR NAME], [if you're a constituent, say "CITY resident"] [Attach one pager.]**