What is Vote16USA?

VOTE16USA

Vote16USA is a movement advocating for the extension of voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds in local elections across the United States.

Why Lower the Voting Age?

Civic Engagement:

- Allowing young people to vote strengthens democracy by encouraging political participation from an earlier age and sparks interest in civics education, making the subject more relevant and engaging in schools

Voter Habit Formation:

- Early voting helps establish a lifelong habit, significantly increasing future voter turnout.

Youth Representation:

- Young people are affected by local issues, including education, employment, and public policy. They deserve a voice in decisions that impact their future.

Global and U.S. Progress

International Success:

- Countries like Austria, Brazil, and Scotland have lowered the voting age to 16, resulting in higher youth voter turnout and engagement. A total of 23 countries have made this change.

U.S. Milestones:

- In January 2024, Newark, NJ, lowered the voting age to 16 for school board elections.
- In November 2024, 16- and 17-year-olds in Berkeley and Oakland voted in school board elections for the first time.
- In November 2024, 64% of Albany, CA, voters approved a measure to lower the voting age for all municipal elections.

Current Campaigns and Goals

Focus on Local Elections: Vote16 campaigns often begin at the local level, creating opportunities for 16- and 17-year-olds to have a voice in the decisions that directly shape their schools and communities.

State-by-State Campaigns: Efforts are underway in California, New Jersey, Maryland, Oregon, and other states to bring the issue to ballot measures or legislative action.

Join the Movement

Donate:

Help fund outreach, educational campaigns, and legal efforts to lower the voting age.

Get involved:

Support local campaigns or start a movement in your city to bring Vote16 to your community

Partner With Us:

Bring Vote16USA resources, education, and organizing support to your school or organization.

For more information or to get involved, visit Vote16USA and read our latest policy report, "Young Voices at the Ballot Box".