



Lowering the Voting Age to 16

Empowering 16-and-17-year-olds to vote in municipal/school board elections will allow them to have a voice in issues like what they're taught, discrimination in schools and gun violence.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2023, NJ voter turnout was only:

3%-7%

in School Board Elections

4%-44%

in Non-Partisan Municipal Elections

4%-15%

in Primary Elections

Why Lower the Voting Age?

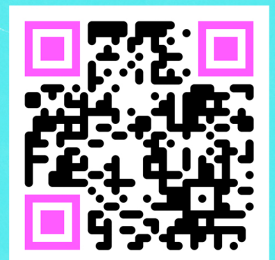
1. Sixteen-year-olds already have adult responsibilities like working, paying taxes and driving. Many are primary caregivers, run businesses and contribute financially to their households. They should be able to vote in municipal/school board elections, too.
2. Young people engage in social activism – advocating for climate change, women's and LGBTQ rights, immigration, gun control and Black Lives Matter. They deserve the right to vote in municipal/school board elections on issues they care about that directly impact them.
3. Early engagement in the democratic process through voting in municipal/school board elections increases the likelihood of continued voter participation in adulthood.

Can NJ and its municipalities do this?


The New Jersey Constitution and state election laws allow voting at 18 but do not prevent younger voting, and the state legislature and municipalities can each lower the voting age for municipal/school board elections. Since there are no legal barriers, we should lower the voting age to 16 for municipal/school board elections in New Jersey to build a stronger, more representative democracy.

To join this campaign
please visit: njsj.org/vote16

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Where is the voting age 16 for municipal and/or school board elections?

 **MD**
Tacoma Park (2013) Riverdale Park (2018)
Hyattsville (2015) Mt. Ranier (2021)
Greenbelt (2018)

 **CA**
Berkeley (2016)
Oakland (2020)

 **VT**
Brattleboro (2023)

 **NJ**
Newark (2024)