

Extending Voting Rights to 16- and 17-Year-Old Citizens



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

An Act Relating to Setting the Minimum Voting Age to 16 for State and Local Elections

Section 1: SHORT TITLE

This Act shall be called the “Voting Age Act of 20XX.”

Section 2: PURPOSE

This Act extends to 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in state and local elections.

Section 3: VOTER ELIGIBILITY

For all state and local elections, all residents of this state, who are otherwise eligible to vote, shall be qualified to vote at 16 years of age. The right of otherwise qualified electors, who are 16 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of age.

Section 4: VOTER REGISTRATION

Any person who will be at least 16 years old on the date of the next ensuing state or local general election, and who is otherwise qualified to vote, shall be entitled to register to vote and may vote at the next ensuing state or local primary and general elections. Such person may register not earlier than 60 days prior to the primary election.

Section 5: POWER TO ENFORCE

The legislature has the power to enforce this Act by appropriate legislation.

Section 6: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall survive in full force and effect. If a conflict arises between this Act and any other provision of law, the policies and purposes of this Act shall govern.

Section 7: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall go into effect the _____ day of _____ 20____.