



Los Angeles County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Resolutions Committee Report

Los Angeles County Democratic Party

5/14/2019

Lowering the Voting Age to 17

WHEREAS voters ages 18-24 in California have the lowest turnout rate of any age demographic, with only 27.5% of eligible young people voting in California's 2018 general election, and, according to the California Civic Engagement Project at USC Price School of Public Policy, the difference in turnout rate between young voters and the total population has remained about the same in 2018 compared to 2014—22 percentage points; and

WHEREAS due to low voter turnout, young adults are drastically underrepresented in our democratic processes, in November 2018 making up only 7.6% of those who voted, but were 13.8% of the eligible voting population, and strong young adult electoral participation is critical to achieving a fully representative democracy; and

WHEREAS research has shown that the earlier in life a person votes, the more likely they are to form a lifelong habit of voting; since for most young adults their first contact with the political process is in their high school government classes or through volunteering on campaigns for service credit, this is an opportune time for them to begin voting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party supports lowering the voting age to 17 to engage young adult voters at a more opportune time in their lives and to promote a lifelong habit of voting and civic engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall be communicated to Governor Gavin Newsom, Secretary of State Alex Padilla and Democratic leaders in the California Legislature.

Submitted by Tony Hale AD 66

Authored by Tony Hale