



## 2018 New York State YMCA

### Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1

Bill #: AL-02

1 **Sponsors:** Stephen Gilbert, Andrew Patterson

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend § 2603 of Education Law to allow students sixteen years or older to vote in  
5 school board elections.

6 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:***

7

8 **Purpose**

9 The purpose of this bill is to allow students sixteen years of age or older who are  
10 directly affected by school board elections to be able to vote for the school board  
11 members in their district.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 § 2603. Qualifications of voters. A person shall be entitled to vote  
15 at a school election in a city school district who is:

16 1. A citizen of the United States.

17 2. ~~Eighteen years of age.~~ Sixteen years of age.

18 3. a. A resident of the state and of the city school district for  
19 thirty days next preceding the election.

20 b. Where territory is added to a city school district by consolidation  
21 or alteration of boundaries pursuant to article thirty-one of this  
22 chapter, residence in the territory so added shall be and shall be  
23 deemed to be residence in the city school district for the purposes of  
24 this section.

25 c. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subdivision, no  
26 Indian who shall have resided on the Allegany Indian reservation for a  
27 period of thirty days preceding the election at which he offers to vote,  
28 shall be deemed ineligible to vote at any such election in the city  
29 school district of the city of Salamanca because of his residence on  
30 part of such reservation located outside of such city school district.

31 4. No person shall have the right to register for or vote at any  
32 school meeting or election who would not be qualified to register for or  
33 vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106  
34 of the election law-, unless that person is a student in the school district  
35 and is sixteen years of age or older.



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36 **Justification**

37 Seeing that voting turnout is on the rise, New York should make an attempt to  
38 continue the trend. By implementing a lower voting age for school elections,  
39 younger citizens can have their voices heard in what directly affects them: their  
40 education. This will help cultivate a precedent for young voters to vote in elections  
41 and increase voter turnout. This can be observed in seventeen states such as  
42 Vermont, Connecticut, and others, as well as towns in Maryland and California that  
43 have lowered the age requirement for voting in state and/or local elections. The  
44 lowered voting age has not only been shown to increase voter turnout of the  
45 younger generation, but also voter turnout of their parents. In order to prevent a  
46 drastic change, lowering the school board voting age would allow for New York to  
47 gradually become more democratic and embracing the thoughts and ideas of the  
48 younger generations. Additionally, each school district holds the right to set other  
49 requirements, meaning that each district would be able to keep the current age if  
50 desired.

51

52 **Fiscal Implications**

53 This bill will have no fiscal implications for New York State.

54

55 **Effective Date**

56 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.