



SR0532 Enrolled

LRB103 34537 MST 64371 r

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 532

(As Amended By Senate Amendment No. 1)

WHEREAS, Illinois residents may register to vote online, in person at the office of the election authority, at driver's license facilities, with deputy registrars who are appointed in each jurisdiction, or through mail using the Illinois Voter Registration Application; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 103-0467 provided that a 16-year old may preregister to vote, with the registration held in abeyance by the Illinois State Board of Elections until that individual turns 18; and

WHEREAS, The Election Code provides that a county clerk may appoint an individual who is at least 17 years old and registered to vote in the State of Illinois to serve as a deputy registrar; and

WHEREAS, The Election Code specifically prevents a public high school from prohibiting nonpartisan voter registration activities on its premise; and

WHEREAS, A 2020 survey from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University revealed that only 50% of young people, ages 18 - 29, were

1 taught how to register to vote in high school; and

2 WHEREAS, A 2022 post-election survey conducted by the
3 Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and
4 Engagement at Tufts University found that 16% of Latinx youth
5 reported that they did not register to vote because they did
6 not know how to register, compared to 6% of non-Latinx youth;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Research found that, during the 2008 elections,
9 African Americans who preregistered to vote in Florida at 16
10 were 5.2% more likely to vote than those who registered after
11 turning 18; and

12 WHEREAS, In its 2014 report to the General Assembly, the
13 Illinois Task Force on Civic Engagement recommended that
14 Illinois public schools should provide access for eligible
15 students to register to vote and encourage students to vote on
16 Election Day as one of the ways to substantially increase
17 civic literacy and civically informed members of the public;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Center for Information and Research on Civic
20 Learning and Engagement at Tufts University found that
21 teaching students about voting increased the likelihood of
22 student voting when they turned 18 by 40%; and

1 WHEREAS, Research published by the Sandra Day O'Connor
2 Institute for American Democracy indicated that there is a
3 positive correlation between a child voting in their first
4 age-eligible election and the probability that their mother
5 votes in the next presidential election, and the correlation
6 is stronger for nonwhite children and children who qualified
7 for free or reduced lunch, which suggests that registering
8 young people to vote may improve civic outcomes not only for
9 students but for their families as well; and

10 WHEREAS, Developmental psychologists found that early
11 civic engagement, through voting, volunteering, and activism,
12 is associated with positive health outcomes later in life,
13 including improved mental health, greater educational
14 attainment, and higher personal and household incomes; and

15 WHEREAS, When the State of Illinois expanded who may serve
16 as an election judge in 2003 to include students, the American
17 Political Science Association surveyed alumni of Loyola
18 Academy in Wilmette after they served as election judges while
19 in high school, and the findings confirmed that practical
20 political experience in high school, if presented in tandem
21 with classroom learning, can increase later political
22 involvement; and

1 WHEREAS, Numerous nonpartisan organizations are eager to
2 help facilitate voter registration drives on high school
3 campuses; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize that
6 public high schools in the State are uniquely positioned to
7 reach all young people, that public schools have a civic
8 purpose to prepare youth, regardless of college or career
9 aspirations, to participate in our democracy, and that public
10 schools fulfill that civic purpose when the school provides
11 education on the registration process and the infrastructure
12 to register qualified students to vote; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we urge election authorities in the State
14 of Illinois to conduct outreach and trainings for qualified
15 students to serve as deputy registrars so that students
16 appointed as deputy registrars may register qualified peers to
17 vote on their school campuses; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage every public high school in
19 the State of Illinois to conduct voter registration drives on
20 its campus for all qualified students.