

RESOLUTION

Fairfax County Democratic Committee

WHEREAS:

1. Youths aged 16 and 17 are subject to taxation without representation;
2. Teenagers and children can be tried as adults and sent to adult prisons;
3. Youth are most affected by decisions made by the elected School Board;
4. Elected Representatives may make decisions that have effects into the far future;
5. The City of Takoma Park, Maryland—upon lowering its voting age to 16—saw a turnout of 44% among 16 and 17 year olds compared to an 11% overall turnout; and an increase to 28% overall turnout in the second year; and
6. A 2004 study on mock elections showed that youth voting increased parental turnout;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Endorses lowering the voting age in Virginia to 16 for local elections;
2. Encourages all Fairfax Delegates & Senators to vote in favor of placing the appropriate Constitutional Amendment on the ballot; and
3. Encourages all residents of Fairfax to vote in favor of said Constitutional Amendment, once placed on the ballot.