



Congresswoman Pressley's Amendment to H.R.1: Lowering Mandatory Minimum Voting Age in Federal Elections

What is H.R. 1?

H.R. 1, or the *For The People Act*, will restore & strengthen the American democracy, end the culture of corruption in Washington, and reduce the role of money in politics to return the power back to the American people. Democrats are committed to ensuring that voting is free, fair and easy for all citizens and that every vote by an eligible voter is counted as cast. H.R. 1 incorporates key provisions of Rep. John Lewis' *Voter Empowerment Act*, and dismantles systemic, discriminatory barriers to voting by ending the indiscriminate purging of eligible voters from the rolls, restores voting rights to individuals with felony convictions after they have completed their prison sentences, establishes automatic voter registration, and expands absentee and early voting. The *For the People* package has broad support from civil rights, conservation, consumer, faith, justice and labor organizations.

What is Congresswoman Pressley's Amendment to H.R. 1?

Across this nation, young people are leading the way. They are organizing, mobilizing and calling on members of Congress to take action. As H.R.1 is considered for passage in the House of Representative this week, Congresswoman Pressley has introduced [an amendment](#) to lower the mandatory minimum voting age from 18-years-old to 16-years-old for Federal elections, giving young people the power to elect members of Congress and the President of the United States. This amendment would set a national policy that requires states to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to register and vote in federal elections.

How Does this Change the Current Law?

Currently, the national minimum voting age is set at 18. Some states, including Massachusetts have allowed 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote so that upon their 18th birthday they can participate in the elections process. On a local level, there have been successes in allowing 16 and 17 years to participate in local elections to choose city council, school board, and the Mayor. Congresswoman Pressley's amendment would expand these efforts so that people as young as 16 can vote in federal elections, excluding state and local offices.

Why Young People Deserve the Right to Vote?

Congresswoman Pressley has stood witness to deep and meaningful levels of engagement in policy and our political processes by 16 and 17-year-olds. Young people across the country have mobilized, marched, and protested in support of important issues like gun control, climate change, school safety, and social injustice. At 16 years old, young people can work, pay taxes and contribute to the economy. It is beyond appropriate that we extend an opportunity for young people to play a role in electing our Representatives both in the halls of Congress and the White House.

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