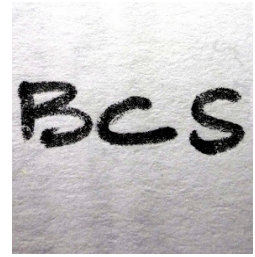


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WIN FOR THE MOVEMENT TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE
Brattleboro VT Passes Charter Change as State and Federal Efforts Build

Brattleboro, VT – On March 5th, a ballot measure in Brattleboro, Vermont, succeeded in lowering to 16 the legal age for voting in town elections, serving on school boards, and being town representatives. The town charter amendment passed in a 69% landslide, four years after losing 42%-58%.

"I am happy to see that the people in Brattleboro are noticing 16 and 17 year olds as we are: taxpayers and fully-functioning members of society," said Rio Daims, 17, the Youth Vote campaign coordinator. "We as youth are very invested in political decisions, and we're finally getting the voice we have always deserved."

The campaign, led by community organization Brattleboro Common Sense, now shifts to the State Legislature, which must approve town charter changes. Senators who represent Brattleboro have pledged to work in its favor. "The next step is going Vermont-wide," Daims said. "We will travel to surrounding towns to get a feel for whether youth are interested in starting their own local campaigns, and helping us with the state-wide effort."

The campaign is one of many local, state and national efforts to lower the voting age to 16. There are active campaigns from San Francisco to Boulder to D.C.. State bills were introduced in Oregon and California last month. The day after the victory in Vermont, U.S. House Rep. Ayanna Pressley offered an amendment to H.R.1 to lower the national voting age.

Daims added: "It's important to remember as we progress into bigger campaigns that this movement started with a few small towns empowering youth. Towns remain the heart of this now widespread initiative."

Brattleboro Common Sense strives to make global issues local, invigorating the political life of Brattleboro through initiatives on voting reform, environmental conservation, safe policing, economic justice, and civics research.

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LINKS

Website – brattleborocommonsense.org/youth-vote
Twitter Feed – <https://twitter.com/YouthVoteBVT>