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Press Release

NYRA supports Florida campaign to lower voting age

Washington, D.C., February 24, 2003: The National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) applauds West Palm Beach, Florida, resident Miranda Rosenberg for her efforts to lower the voting age to sixteen in the State of Florida.

Lowering the voting age will have a significant positive effect on the American electoral process. Teenagers given the right to vote in mock elections vote at higher rates than their parents do. Starting the voting process early is important: teenagers have more time to devote to the electoral process, as they are not yet bogged down with college or full time occupations. Additionally, voting will reinforce skills developed in government and civics classes. By voting at sixteen, these teenagers would be more likely to continue to vote throughout their life.

Her efforts are part of the newest growing movement across the United States and the world. Youth in Anchorage, Alaska worked to lower the voting age to sixteen yet fell one vote short to get it on the ballot. Students in Cambridge, Mass. succeeded in lower the voting age to seventeen for local elections. A ballot petition similar to the Florida petition is also circulating by the NYRA-North Dakota chapter. The NYRA-Washington, D.C. chapter is working with local municipal governments in Maryland, and soon the District of Columbia and Virginia, to lower the voting age to sixteen. Government ministers in the United Kingdom are also considering lower the voting age to sixteen as a way to increase election turnout.

The National Youth Rights Association, founded in 1998, is the largest youth rights organization. With principal offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, NYRA is growing rapidly. NYRA currently has twelve chapters with many more in the works. NYRA speaks at many conferences on youth rights and frequently appears on CNN and other major radio and television news networks. More information is available on NYRA at: www.youthrights.org

More information is available on the NYRA voting age web site: <http://www.youthrights.org/votingage.shtml>

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