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# News Release

## **Berkeley California Could Make History: Considering Youth-Proposed Bill to Lower the Voting Age to Sixteen**

**Berkeley, Calif., May 16, 2005:** Berkeley, California could become the first American city to lower its voting age to sixteen. The City Council is considering a bill proposed by the Berkeley Chapter of the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA), America's largest youth-led, youth rights organization.

The proposal is sponsored by Council Members Kriss Worthington, Darryl Moore, and Max Anderson and will be heard on May 24, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. at Old City Hall in Berkeley (2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way) at 7:30pm. The City Council meeting will also be available by live internet feed at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/video/>

NYRA-Berkeley endorses this legislation because the time is right for this historic breakthrough:

"The shortage of education funding in California today is proof that students aren't being represented the way they should be," says NYRA-Berkeley President Robert Reynolds. "If students had the right to vote, elected officials would have to take their issues seriously."

NYRA-Berkeley encourages Berkeley to join a growing worldwide movement to lower the voting age. Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom are all considering a lower voting age. In America, legislation to lower the voting age has been introduced in several states and communities. Now Berkeley can become the first city to adopt a voting age of sixteen.

Testifying at this hearing will be the following members of NYRA Berkeley: President Robert Reynolds; Vice-President Pamela Tatz; Chair Chris Howell; Treasurer Rio Bauce; Secretary Joia De Vita; Officer Hallie Sekoff; and Public Relations Officer Zach Hobesh.

### About NYRA

NYRA, founded in 1998, is a Washington D.C. based 501(c)(3) non-profit. Its mission is to promote awareness of the legal and civil rights of young people in the United States. NYRA has over 5,000 members and has been featured on CNN, Fox News, PBS, NPR, and in the New York Times, Boston Globe, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun and numerous other publications.

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