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# News Release

## Teens Rally for Lower Voting Age on Voting Rights Anniversary

**New York City, August 6, 2005:** On the Fortieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Future Voters of America (FVA) and the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) will hold a rally in New York City in support of Councilmember Gale Brewer's bill to allow sixteen and seventeen year-old New Yorkers to vote in city elections.

The rally will take place at 5 pm in the Martin Luther King Jr. High School courtyard, 122 Amsterdam Avenue, following NYRA's annual convention, which will draw youth rights leaders from across America.

NYRA and FVA believe that New York City should rise to the occasion and become the first American city to lower its voting age to sixteen.

Anna Robinson Sweet, Youth congress participant and active FVA member says "The need to get voters back to the polls is crucial, and 16 and 17 year olds, if given the vote, can provide the solution."

NYRA-NYC president Ana Hevesi strongly endorses this legislation: "On average, 16 year-olds in New York easily meet the standard that we hold older voters to under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. That standard is the equivalent of a 6th grade education. If we cannot expect that from our 16 year-olds than we have bigger problems on our hands, and could use 16 and 17 year-olds voters to help fix them. Now is the time to raise the expectations of young New Yorkers."

On this historic day, as we celebrate the landmark legislation which guaranteed millions of Americans the precious right to vote, a new generation will seek to make its voice heard at the ballot box.

### 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 5,500 members and has been featured on CNN, Fox News, PBS, NPR, and in the New York Times, USA Today, Boston Globe, Teen Vogue, Parade Magazine, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun and numerous other publications.

### About FVA

Future Voters of America is a non-profit organization which began in 1996 with the goals of empowering youth to affect social policy on their behalf, to be an outlet through which they could express their opinions, and with the ultimate objective of youth enfranchisement. Based in New York City FVA has rallied area high schools to form a student-led youth congress for the past three years. Out of these congresses have come many resolutions including the birth of the initiative to lower the voting age to 16.

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