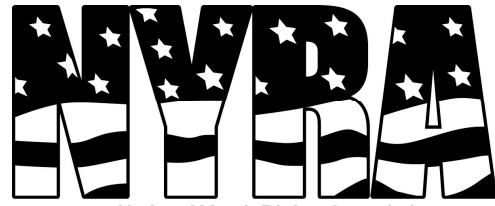


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# Press Release

## **“Lower Age to Run for Office in North Carolina,” says NYRA**

**Durham, NC, August 15, 2003:** The National Youth Rights Association has joined the campaign calling for the 21 age limit to run for public office in North Carolina to be lowered.

NYRA stands behind the effort begun by Raleigh City Council candidate, Zack Medford, to amend the state constitution to allow all registered voters the chance to run for local office. This will replace the current requirement all local North Carolina candidates for office be 21. “18-year-olds vote, pay taxes, and are considered adults in most ways; denying them the right to run for office is age discrimination and wrong,” says NYRA Executive Director, Alex Koroknay-Palicz.

NYRA supports any young citizen who wants to serve their community in public office. At a time when much of the country is wondering why young people don't get more involved in politics, North Carolina prevents perfectly able and interested youth from getting involved. The 21-age requirement to run for office is too high and ageist. This requirement should be lowered to give politically active youth the same right to run for office that their politically active elders enjoy.

NYRA will hold a press conference on Monday, August 18th outside the NC Legislature in Raleigh at 2:00pm.

“If some voters feel 18 is too young to be in office, they have the right to vote against young candidates. However it is unfair and undemocratic to deny them the chance to run in the first place,” said DeWarren Langley, of NYRA's Board.

Charles Turner, Mayor of Silas City, NC said this about his 19-year-old potential opponent, “If he can be drafted into the armed forces, go overseas and fight for me,” Turner said, “I think he ought to be able to do what he wants to do.” Unfortunately because of the high age limit in North Carolina his opponent, Jonus Nobles, will not be allowed to run for Mayor. Like dozens of others around the state, the age limit prohibits young, active candidates from running for office.

The National Youth Rights Association, founded in 1998, is the largest youth rights organization in the country. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the entirely youth led organization is growing rapidly. NYRA currently has a dozen chapters with many more in the works. NYRA has also spoken at many conferences on youth rights and has been featured on CNN multiple times. More information is available on NYRA at [www.youthrights.org](http://www.youthrights.org)

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