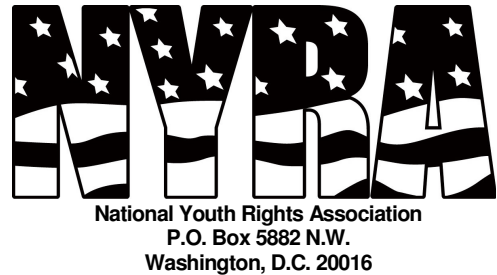


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News Release

Teens Rally in New York; Call for Lower Voting Age

New York City October 30, 2004: Tired of being ignored politically, local teens and their adult allies have decided to gather together on October 30 in Union Square to demand the voting age be lowered. The protest, which will run from 1 to 2:30 PM, will kick off a campaign by the New York City chapter of the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) to lower the voting age in the city. Organizers also plan to speak out against the proposed youth curfew law.

With one of the most contested Presidential elections in U.S. history drawing close, young people feel shut out from the process. "I know as much about this election as my parents, yet I'm not allowed to vote," said Scott Davidson, NYRA Secretary and organizer of the protest. Not all supporters are below 18 either, Jason Kende, 25, a NYRA-NYC official said "the right to vote is an essential part of American citizenship, to denying this right to youth makes them second class citizens." NYRA-NYC believes that as taxpaying, law abiding citizens, teens have just as much a need and right to vote as adults, to deny them this right is discrimination.

Organizers expect thirty to forty area members to attend the rally which will be the largest of its kind in New York City since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971. The New York rally joins a similar rally at the state capitol building in Sacramento, California by west coast NYRA members. These rallies follow in the wake of more than a dozen serious campaigns over the last year to lower the voting age around the country in places such as California, Alaska, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, Texas and more.

The National Youth Rights Association, the foremost organization advocating civil liberties for young people since 1998, has staged similar events in the past. Our highly publicized protest in Berkeley kicked off the voting age campaign that rocked California's state legislature. NYRA has nearly 5,000 members and has been featured on CNN, NPR, Pacifica, and in the Boston Globe, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun and dozens more.

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