

H.R. 4916 - Youth Voting Rights Act

H.R. 4916, known as the Youth Voting Rights Act, aims to enforce the Twenty-Sixth Amendment for America's youth and expand voting rights for younger generations nationwide. Young voters participate in elections at lower rates than voters in older age cohorts, while routinely facing serious obstacles to voter registration and in-person voting.

To address these issues, the bill offers several solutions. The bill designates offices at all public institutions of higher education as "voter registration agencies" under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, imposing voter registration obligations on these institutions, such as requiring on-campus polling locations. It will also permit young people in every state to pre-register to vote before turning 18. Finally, the bill creates a grant program for states to encourage youth involvement in elections through pre-registration, updated civics curricula, and a paid fellowship for the youth to directly work with state and local officials.

YCIC should support H.R. 4916 because it expands access to civic engagement for youth nationwide, makes voting and voter registration accessible. Furthermore, it funds efforts such as civics curricula and paid fellowships around civic engagement, which closely aligns with many aspects of YCIC's work—notably YCIC's effort around developing educational resources and workshop modules. The bill utilizes provisions in the NVRA to expand civic opportunity in institutions of higher learning by reinforcing local and federal agencies (i.e., voter registration agencies) and establishing a new grant program for youth civic involvement. The grant program would be administered through the Election Assistance Commission. H.R. 4916 was introduced on August 5th, 2025 by Rep. Nikema Williams [D-Ga] and Senator Elizabeth Warren [D-Mass]. The bill is currently awaiting approval in the U.S. House of Representatives to be able to proceed to the U.S. Senate for committee consideration and then a floor vote.

Reference Link: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4916>