

States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each house concurring therein), That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

“Article —

“Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any States on account of age. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

“Section 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within

seven years from the date of its submission to the states by Congress.”

Another resolution, S.J. Res. 64, submitted by the then Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, was almost identical in form and content.

Generally, public opinion polls show a broader interest in the minimum voting age issue, and a larger percentage of persons in favor of lowering the minimum, in periods when the United States is at war and boys of 18 are being drafted. An American Institute of Public Opinion (Gallup Poll) survey in 1953 revealed that sentiment to cut the voting age to 18 had reached an all-time high, 63 per cent being in favor, and 31 per cent opposed. Only once before, in 1943 at the height of World War II, had there been a majority (52 per cent) favoring the reduction in age. The trend of United States' thinking on the issue was given as follows:<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Washington Post, July 4, 1953, at 5, col. 4.

	Favor	Oppose	No Opinion
June 1939	17%	79%	4%
Jan. 1943	39	52	9
Sept. 1943	52	42	6
Feb. 1947	35	60	5
Sept. 1951	47	49	4
July 1953	63	31	6
Aug. 1965	57	39	4

The Gallup Poll further pointed out that if 18 year olds won the suffrage an additional 6,300,000 persons would be added to those already eligible to vote.

The most common arguments pro and con on the question of voting age are quoted or summarized in the following sections.

**II. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF LOWERING THE MINIMUM VOTING AGE TO 18 YEARS**

- A. *Partly because of the rising level of education, young people today are better equipped to exercise suffrage than were past generations of youth.*