



SR0532

LRB103 34537 MST 64371 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois residents may register to vote online,  
3 in person at the office of the election authority, at driver's  
4 license facilities, with deputy registers who are appointed in  
5 each jurisdiction, or through mail using the Illinois Voter  
6 Registration Application; and

7 WHEREAS, The Election Code provides that school principals  
8 or another qualified person designated by the principal may be  
9 appointed as a deputy registrar through their county clerk;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Public Act 103-0467 provided that a 16-year old  
12 may preregister to vote, with the registration held in  
13 abeyance by the Illinois State Board of Elections until that  
14 individual turns 18; and

15 WHEREAS, The Election Code provides that a county clerk  
16 may appoint an individual who is at least 17 years old and  
17 registered to vote in the State of Illinois to serve as a  
18 deputy registrar; and

19 WHEREAS, The Election Code specifically prevents a public  
20 high school from prohibiting nonpartisan voter registration  
21 activities on its premise; and

1           WHEREAS, A 2020 survey from the Center for Information and  
2           Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University  
3           revealed that only 50% of young people, ages 18 - 29, were  
4           taught how to register to vote in high school; and

5           WHEREAS, A 2022 post-election survey conducted by the  
6           Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and  
7           Engagement at Tufts University found that 16% of Latinx youth  
8           reported that they did not register to vote because they did  
9           not know how to register, compared to 6% of non-Latinx youth;  
10          and

11          WHEREAS, Research found that, during the 2008 elections,  
12          African Americans who preregistered to vote in Florida at 16  
13          were 5.2% more likely to vote than those who registered after  
14          turning 18; and

15          WHEREAS, In its 2014 report to the General Assembly, the  
16          Illinois Task Force on Civic Engagement recommended that  
17          Illinois public schools should provide access for eligible  
18          students to register to vote and encourage students to vote on  
19          Election Day as one of the ways to substantially increase  
20          civic literacy and civically informed members of the public;  
21          and

1           WHEREAS, The Center for Information and Research on Civic  
2 Learning and Engagement at Tufts University found that  
3 teaching students about voting increased the likelihood of  
4 student voting when they turned 18 by 40%; and

5           WHEREAS, Research published by the Sandra Day O'Connor  
6 Institute for American Democracy indicated that there is a  
7 positive correlation between a child voting in their first  
8 age-eligible election and the probability that their mother  
9 votes in the next presidential election, and the correlation  
10 is stronger for nonwhite children and children who qualified  
11 for free or reduced lunch, which suggests that registering  
12 young people to vote may improve civic outcomes not only for  
13 students but for their families as well; and

14           WHEREAS, Developmental psychologists found that early  
15 civic engagement, through voting, volunteering, and activism,  
16 is associated with positive health outcomes later in life,  
17 including improved mental health, greater educational  
18 attainment, and higher personal and household incomes; and

19           WHEREAS, When the State of Illinois expanded who may serve  
20 as an election judge in 2003 to include students, the American  
21 Political Science Association surveyed alumni of Loyola  
22 Academy in Wilmette after they served as election judges while  
23 in high school, and the findings confirmed that practical

1 political experience in high school, if presented in tandem  
2 with classroom learning, can increase later political  
3 involvement; and

4 WHEREAS, Numerous nonpartisan organizations are eager to  
5 help facilitate voter registration drives on high school  
6 campuses; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize that  
9 public high schools in the State are uniquely positioned to  
10 reach all young people, that public schools have a civic  
11 purpose to prepare youth, regardless of college or career  
12 aspirations, to participate in our democracy, and that public  
13 schools fulfill that civic purpose when the school provides  
14 education on the registration process and the infrastructure  
15 to register qualified students to vote; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge election authorities in the State  
17 of Illinois to conduct outreach and trainings for high school  
18 principals to encourage principals to become deputy  
19 registrars; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge election authorities in the State  
21 of Illinois to conduct outreach and trainings for qualified  
22 students to serve as deputy registrars so that students

1 appointed as deputy registrars may register qualified peers to  
2 vote on their school campuses; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That we encourage every public high school in  
4 the State of Illinois to conduct voter registration drives on  
5 its campus for all qualified students.