



The City of Minneapolis

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

By Quincy, Frey, Reich, Gordon, B. Johnson, Yang, Warsame,
Goodman, Glidden, Cano, Bender, A. Johnson and Palmisano

Supporting Kids Voting Minneapolis

Whereas, with the ratification of the 26th amendment in 1971, that lowered the voting age to 18 years old, there was great hope and enthusiasm for the younger generation of this nation. It was hoped that young people would share a great voice in American democracy; and

Whereas, in the following year, 1972, only about 50% of U.S. 18-24 year olds exercised this new right by voting; and

Whereas, by 2012, this declined when only 41% of 18-24 year olds voted nationally; and

Whereas, Minnesota has led the nation in official voter turnout in eight of the last nine national elections, with 76% voting in 2012; and

Whereas, in that same year, 2012, in Minnesota, only 57.7% of 18-29 year olds voted, ranking third highest in the nation, behind only Mississippi and Wisconsin; and

Whereas, a recent 2014 report from Education Commission of the States and the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement cited Kids Voting USA as an organization using “Simulations of Democratic Processes”, one of six proven practices for effective civic learning; and

Whereas, national research has confirmed the positive influence of the Kids Voting program on voting patterns and civic participation. In communities with Kids Voting programs, the voting rate for registered 18-year-olds is 14 % higher than their non-participating peers and adult voter turnout increases as much as 5%; and

Whereas, since 2004, Kids Voting Minneapolis through its K-12 activities, has worked to prepare students for a lifetime of voting and civic participation in our democracy; and

Whereas, on Election Day students go to the official polls with adults to experience an authentic voting experience by voting in a Kids Voting booth on a specially designed Kids Voting Minneapolis ballot that includes many of the same candidates and issues that the official adult ballot contains; and

Whereas, recent Kids Voting Minneapolis efforts resulted in doubling the number of K-12 students who voted, from 7,600 in 2008 (24%) to 14,000 in 2012 (42%); and

Whereas, Minneapolis businesses, civic groups, governmental entities and volunteers have added their support to Kids Voting Minneapolis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council hereby endorses and supports Kids Voting Minneapolis. Support includes educating election judges about Kids Voting Minneapolis, delivering Kids Voting materials to and from polling places on Election Day, and coordinating Election Day activities to ensure a smooth process for kids and adult voters.

Passed, October 17, 2014

Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved:

Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Carl, City Clerk