



RUSA Resolution F18-1

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Sponsor: Legislative Affairs

**Resolution to Advocate for the *New Voter Empowerment Act***

*Whereas*, civic engagement and participation in the electoral process are integral to the functioning of an effective democratic republic; and

*Whereas*, currently those who are seventeen years of age in the primary election and will be eighteen years of age in the general election are prohibited from voting in the primary election in the State of New Jersey; and

*Whereas*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) and its Legislative Affairs Committee have historically committed to devoting resources to increase and improve civic engagement on the Rutgers University--New Brunswick campus; and

*Whereas*, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker of New Jersey's 16th Legislative District has authored and introduced a bill into the New Jersey Assembly entitled the *New Voter Empowerment Act*<sup>1</sup> which seeks to provide seventeen year-olds turning eighteen before the general election the right to vote in the corresponding calendar year's primary election; and

*Whereas*, the legislation has passed through the New Jersey State Assembly but stalled in the New Jersey Senate on two occasions despite broad support; and

*Whereas*, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker has personally requested the assistance and advocacy of RUSA to ensure that this bill becomes the law.

***Be it hereby resolved*** that RUSA supports advocacy and promotional efforts to assist in the passage of the *New Voter Empowerment Act* through the New Jersey Senate.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/920970>