

# HOW TO RUN YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE

10 ACTIONS



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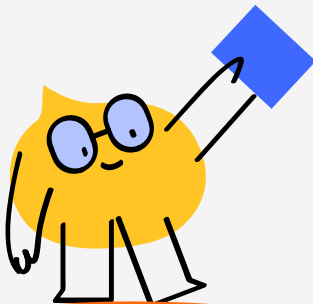
# KNOW THE LAW

Find out which law determines the voting age in your country. Is it the constitution or an electoral law? Understanding this is the first step!



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# FIND THE DECISION- MAKERS

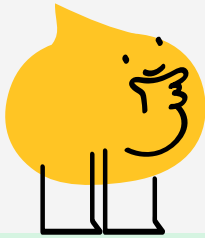


Who has the power to change that law? Is it being decided in a parliamentary committee, a ministry, or the governing party / parties? Knowing this helps you target the right people!

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## MAKE THE CASE FOR

CHANGE

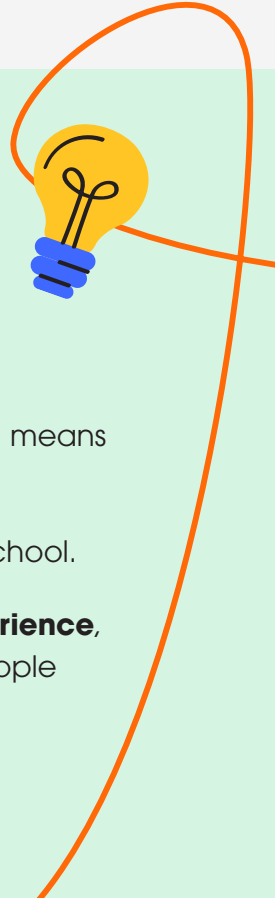


Show why the current voting age isn't working!  
Consult the Youth Forum's [webpage on lowering the voting age](#)<sup>1</sup> to back up your arguments.

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## USE THESE TOP THREE ARGUMENTS

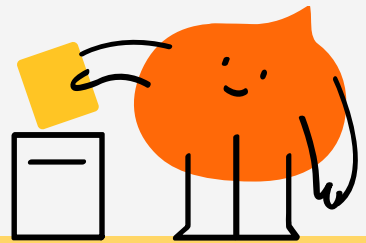
- Improving **young people's trust in democracy**, means getting more voices in the democratic process.
- **Making voting a lifelong habit** by starting at school.
- Voting for the first time as a **shared social experience**, not as an individual experience, means that people are more likely to continue voting later on in life.



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## DEBUNK THE MYTH

There's people who are proving tricky to convince, the ones that often say that 16-year-olds are not mature enough to vote. Here's how to respond: **16-year-olds are already active in their societies and make big decisions** about their lives, education, and careers - they're ready to vote too!



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## ENGAGE YOUR MP

Write to your local member of parliament asking for the law to change. A simple, direct letter can make a huge difference!



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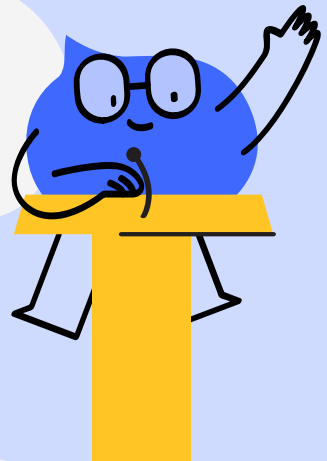
## BE STRATEGIC

Use the Youth Forum's [Advocacy Handbook](#)<sup>2</sup> for more ideas on how to persuade policymakers to change the law / constitution—like petitions, social media campaigns, or public events.

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## INVOLVE POLITICAL PARTIES

Invite the political parties in your country to a meeting and ask them to commit to voting at 16 in their election manifestos and / or their party programmes. Their support could be a game changer!





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## VOTE SMART

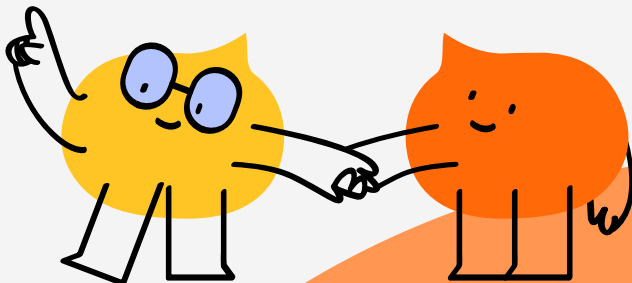
When elections come, vote for a party that supports lowering the voting age.

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## FIND ALLIES

Build a network of supporters!

Partner with youth organisations in your country, or anyone else who wants to make this change happen. Always remember, you are never alone!



**CONTACT THE  
EUROPEAN YOUTH  
FORUM IF YOU  
WANT ACCESS TO  
CAMPAIGN MATERIALS**

**YOUTHFORUM@YOUTHFORUM.ORG**

