

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Representative Ted Powers at 3:30 p.m. on February 20, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Cindy Hermes, Excused
Representative David Huff, Excused
Representative R.J. Wilson, Excused
Chair Tony Powell, Excused

Committee staff present: Ken Wilke, Revisor
Dennis Hodgins, Research
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HCR 5042 and HCR 5044 Proponents: Representative Dennis Pyle
Representative Bruce Larkin
Hiawatha High School Government Students:
Katie Scherer
Kindra Maze
Matt Stephenson
Debra Winter
Carla Schuster
Taylor Lenon
Neutral: Elizabeth Ensley, Shawnee County Elections
Commissioner

Others attending: See attached list

Vice Chairman Powers opened the hearing on HCR 5042 - Elections; authorize person to vote in primary election if person will be 18 on or before general election and HCR 5044 - Allowing persons, who will be 18 on or before the date of general election, to vote in primary election.

Vice Chair Powers introduced Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brad Bryant and asked that he explain, primarily for the students' information, what is a House Concurrent Resolution and the processes involved in it's passage. Mr. Bryant explained that a HCR to amend the state constitution must pass both houses of the legislature by 2/3's vote in order to be placed on the ballot in November. He said there is a statute that requires the Secretary of State to put a public notice in 1 newspaper in each county in the state for 3 consecutive weeks prior to the election regarding the constitutional amendment. The cost of publishing is determined by the length of the column and the unofficial estimate of this cost would be \$65,000 for the state. The resolution would be printed on the ballot in the general election in November as a question as to whether this amendment should be adopted. If the resolution receives 51% of the vote in the general election, it will be adopted as an amendment to the constitution. There has been no formal request for a fiscal note on this bill, but there may be some additional fiscal impact involved in ballot preparation.

Vice Chair Powers introduced Representative Dennis Pyle who appeared before the committee as a proponent for **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**. He said that this idea had been brought to the legislature several years ago by Representative Weiland. Representative Pyle asks that the committee treat the bill favorably. (Attachment 1)

Representative Bruce Larkin was recognized by Vice-Chair Powers as a proponent of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**, which are identical bills. He said that this bill will give voters who are not 18 years old for the primary election, but who will turn 18 before the general election, more power in their vote by allowing them to vote in the primary election. He also said many elections are determined in the primary. Representative Larkin asks that the committee not be deterred by any fiscal note from providing good government in the state of Kansas, and allow young people to vote.

The government students of Hiawatha High School were welcomed to the committee by Vice-Chair Powers along with their instructor, Larry Weast:

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE at on February 20, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

Katie Scherer, student, appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**. She said that young people often do not vote because they feel that people do not think that they are mature enough to vote and do not pay attention to them. Ms. Scherer indicated that, because of their government class requirement, they are well-informed and educated voters. She believes in the "Power of One", that one vote can make a difference. (Attachment 2)

Kindra Maze, student, testified before the committee as a proponent of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**. She said that there are 16 states that allow 17 year olds to vote if they will be 18 on or before the general election, including the neighboring states of Nebraska and Colorado. Ms. Maze told the committee that the passage of this bill would allow approximately 38,000 of Kansas's juniors and seniors to vote and, possibly, change the outcome of the election. (Attachment 3)

The third student to testify before the committee in favor of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044** was Matt Stephenson. He indicated that students in high schools in Kansas are required to take a year-long course in U.S. government and may become more educated about political issues than perhaps even eligible voters. He also said that students need to be treated as equals because one day they may be sitting in the same seats that the committee members are in right now. (Attachment 4)

The next student to testify in favor of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044** was Deborah Winter. She wanted members of the committee to know that students are not only mature enough to vote, but are knowledgeable of government through their classes and are anxious to have their voices heard. Ms. Winter believes that Kansas should join the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska and Oregon in allowing 17 year olds to vote. (Attachment 5)

Carla Schuster, student, testified before the committee in favor of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**. She said that a 17 year old's constitutional right to vote is hindered by these teens' inability to nominate their own candidates merely because they are under the age of 18 at the time of the primary election. Ms. Schuster also told the committee that teenagers are informed on the issues and candidates and want and deserve the right to choose the candidates that they vote for in the general election. (Attachment 6)

The last student to testify in favor of **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044** was Taylor Lenon. He said that the thinking is that "Well they don't vote anyway; so why let more of them vote." He said that if only 25% of the 38,000 students affected would be interested in voting, that's still 9,500 people that can be encouraged to become active in and aware of politics. He also indicated that the primary election is often the only "real" election. (Attachment 7)

Vice-Chairman Powers welcomed Shawnee County Elections Commissioner Elizabeth Ensley to the committee as neutral on **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**. She said she is neither for or against these resolutions, that she simply has some questions regarding this procedure. Some of Ms. Ensley's concerns were 1) not all races on the August ballot are a nomination procedure as precinct committee officials and questions are frequently placed on the August ballot (both are actually general elections), 2) would 17 year olds be allowed to vote on questions? (if not, two additional ballot styles per precinct would be necessary and, because those 2 would look alike, there is increased possibility of the wrong ballot being given to the wrong voter), 3) would parties have to agree to the change since Precinct Committee Offices are "party", not "public" offices?, and 4) could 17 year olds vote on special elections anytime during the period when they can register? (Attachment 8)

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brad Bryant answered a question asked by Representative Ray that the estimated cost of ballot preparation for the state if this resolution passes is \$110,000.

Vice Chair Powers closed the hearing on **HCR 5042** and **HCR 5044**.

Representative Welshimer moved and Representative Barnes seconded the motion that the minutes for the January 23, 28, February 4, 6, 11 and 13 meetings be approved as received. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is February 25 at 3:30 p.m.

STATE OF KANSAS

DENNIS D. PYLE
REPRESENTATIVE, 49TH DISTRICT
DONIPHAN AND BROWN COUNTIES
2979 KINGFISHER RD.
HIAWATHA, KS 66434
(785) 742-3780 (HOME)



HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 431-N
TOPEKA, KS 66612
PHONE: (785) 296-7646
E-mail: pyle@house.state.ks.us

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: TAXATION
TRANSPORTATION
SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET

HCR 5042

Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present testimony on HCR 5042

This is not the first time this idea has been brought forward. I believe former Representative Weiland proposed this a couple of years back. At that time, my nephew was involved. He learned a lot about the process, and to this date remembers the question and answer process with good detail. It was a good experience for him and I'm sure these students will have similar memories.

I'm here to testify in support of the bill and ask that you treat it with favor.

I regret that I must ask to be excused as I am late for my committee meeting.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in favor of HCR 5042.

TESTIMONY OF
KATHERINE RUTH SCHERER
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
ON HB 5042
February 20, 2002

By Katie Scherer, Government Student Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha, KS

Good afternoon members of the committee. My name is Katie Scherer. I am a senior at Hiawatha High School, and I am testifying in favor of the House Concurrent Resolution No. 5042. There are many reasons why I support this resolution. As I speak to you today, I will name and explain each of them.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5042 simply states, "The purpose of this amendment is to authorize persons becoming 18 years of age on or before the date of any general election to vote at the primary election held for the nomination of candidates for such general election even though such person is 17 years of age at the time of the primary election."

Why are we striving to pass this? Well, if one does not participate during the primary, because of age, then one does not really have a right to voice their opinion in who is elected. For example, in the primary election, Republicans may be the only party to file for election. Therefore, the party is then slimmed down to one Republican and is then elected in the general election. If I were to turn 18 the day after the primary, then I would have no right to choose in who is elected.

I believe the four months in between primary and general elections does not matter, because the maturity level at that time is pretty well sustained. Plus, as juniors and seniors, we are required to take Government to graduate. During this class, we are informed on candidates and elections. We also study issues and are required to stay

current with the news. Moreover, the knowledge gained by one will lead into educated votes.

Maturity. That is a big question. Are we mature enough to cast an intelligent vote? I believe we are. However, some teens may feel discouraged because our opinions get shoved to the side. The reason that is, is because we are not involved in voting. But, by being informed of the candidates, we can take charge and vote. I know that my vote counts. Some of the greatest elections have been won by just one vote. It is all about Political Efficacy. It's the Power of One that can make a difference.

The number one reason we do not take part in voting is we feel people do not pay attention to our voice. However, I believe if we were able to allow more teens to vote people would start paying attention to us. We are able to make educated decisions. Do not let us be denied the right to choose who we feel is a necessary aspect in our life. We know that whomever we choose will be with us for their entire term. We want a positive outcome.

If you, members of the committee, pass this resolution we would be receiving an increase in voice. You would also see an increasing voting rate. It would involve allowing teens to voice their opinion, because our opinion does matter. It is the Power of One, which is important. I believe if you allowed teens to become involved during their time in high school, then they would stay involved throughout their adult-life.

This resolution does not directly affect me, but it does affect those who surround me. I do believe if they were to get out and vote during the primary they would then continue to vote in the general election and also future elections. You may notice an

increase in votes and also a different outcome of the age of the voters. I would hope you would be pleasantly surprised.

In conclusion, I have stated many reasons why I am in favor of House Concurrent Resolution No. 5042. I believe you would be making a wise decision in choosing to pass this. This amendment is very important to me because I would like to see more teenagers out there informing you of their opinion. I would also like to see a positive outcome in the future for the next generation. If we started voting at a younger age then we would teach our children how important it is to get out and be heard. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Testimony of the
Hiawatha Government Class of Kansas
Before the House Committee on Ethics and Elections
House Concurrent Resolution 5042
February 20, 2002

By Kindra Maze, Government Student of Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha Kansas

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I am here today to testify in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 5042. In this amendment, persons becoming 18 years of age on or before the date of any general election will be able to vote at the primary election even though such persons are at the age of 17. Currently sixteen states are allowing 17 year olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 on or before the general election, including our neighboring states Nebraska and Colorado.

It has always been stressed that each vote counts. If this bill is passed, approximately 38,000 of Kansas's juniors and seniors could vote. With 38,000 more votes, the candidates elected could change significantly. The primary election could be considered the "real" election because it eliminates all but one candidate per party on the ballot. Thus, a voter may not get the opportunity to vote for his or her preferred candidate if not allowed to vote in the primary election. In the general election, they would be voting from a ballot that was pre-determined. The Constitution says that you have the freedom to vote, but to me, that freedom is limited because you were only able to participate in part of the election.

Many people believe that 17 year olds shouldn't have the right to vote because they lack the knowledge of the system, thus they are too immature to be given the right to vote. Statistically 18-24 year olds are the least likely to vote, but I believe it's because they were denied the right to vote while they were in school studying the government system. Many students are just turning 18 either before they graduate or after they graduate. I believe the percentage of 18-year-old voters would increase if they were given the right to vote when they were currently taking government classes and were able to apply their newly acquired knowledge. By voting while actively studying the government system, or soon after, students would be more likely to continue voting as young adults.

In elementary school, children are learning things earlier than ever before, because the sooner they learn how to do something, the better they will do. This example is comparable to why I support Resolution 5042. As students learn, the sooner they are able to apply the knowledge, the better the results will come about. Isn't that what schools are focused on, applying what you have learned?

Of two mandatory classes required by the state, one half unit, or one semester, is American Government and the other is one unit of American History. In these required classes, a major part of the class grade is current events. Through current events, students update themselves on what the Governor and legislators are facing. We learn and discuss important topics that are major issues debated by political candidates. Some may argue that 17 year olds won't cast an intelligent vote. I believe there are many students who would be more capable of voting wisely than many of the adults in the state because they have studied the issues.

As I previously stated, the general election ballots for some 18 year olds are pre-determined. The Constitution was written with the capability to be changed for future generations to obtain proper rights. I believe the Kansas Constitution should be modified so that voters are given those proper rights.

TESTIMONY OF
HIAWATHA HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT STUDENTS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
ON HCR 5042

February 20, 2002

By Matt Stephenson, Student at Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha, Kansas

Teens are traditionally seen as immature, incapable, and incompetent. I'll try to convince you that is not true, and in fact, the exact opposite is true.

First of all, I want to state that my peers and I do not want to lower the voting age. As I go along, I'm sure you will understand this point better. This proposed amendment, which you have before you now, simply states that a citizen that would be of legal age for any given general election would be eligible to vote in the primaries.

Second, I would like to give you all a scenario of where this amendment would come into play. The primaries for sheriff are in August and the general election is in November, but one's is in October. And, in your county five members from the same party are the only candidates, which means in the general election the candidate would be going unopposed. Basically, that means for all intents and purposes the primaries would be the general election.

Third, I want to break down the voting scheme. Let's be honest. Not all eligible voters vote, and half of the people that do vote don't know what their candidate stands for. Right now, all high school students across the state of Kansas are required to take a year-long course of U.S. government. This is significant because students in this class become more educated about political issues than perhaps even eligible voters have. Adults often argue that, if this proposed amendment were passed, most teens would not take advantage of this privilege. Perhaps that may be a valid argument, but it is based on no solid fact. As a teen myself, I know my peers would jump at the chance to actively participate in politics. Also, since September 11 teens all across the United States have pled that they want to become more politically active.

In conclusion, I would like to simply state that we, the students, are the youth of this state, and of this nation. We need to be seen and treated as equals because one day we will be sitting in the same places that you all are right now. When our founding fathers wrote the Constitution, they could not have foreseen the kinds of changes that the United States was going to go through, and that is why we have amendments -- so that we could change with the times. Teens are politically competent and capable of making intelligent decisions based on fact and not on whether the candidate has an "R" or "D" next to their name. And, considering sixteen other states, including Nebraska and Colorado, have adopted similar amendments don't you think it's time Kansas teens get the same opportunities? Thank you for considering this matter.

TESTIMONY OF
HIAWATHA HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT CLASS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
ON HCR 5042

February 20, 2002

By Deborah Winter, Government student, Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha Kansas

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to come before you today to present an argument in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5042. The purpose of this resolution is to allow persons who would be eligible to vote in a general election to vote in the primary election even though they are seventeen years of age.

By recommending this resolution, you would be giving approximately 38,000 Kansas high school juniors and seniors the right to help select, in primary elections, the candidates that would appear on the general election ballot. This idea is not a new one; in fact, sixteen other states have similar laws already in effect, some of which include Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, and Oregon.

This resolution, if passed, would give younger voters more voting privileges and, most likely would encourage them to vote. Some might argue against this resolution, saying that some younger voters do not exercise the voting rights they have now, and thus why should they be given more voting privileges.

It is true that people my age and slightly older do not exercise their voting rights as much as older age groups do. I believe that this is do to the fact that eighteen to twenty-four year-olds believe that they are often ignored or that little attention is given to the issues that concern them.

An analogy of this, for example, might occur when a young person is asked to voice his or her opinion but that opinion is ignored causing him or her to refrain from voicing further opinions. I think that this analogy is very similar to what my age group is feeling.

When we do vote, I believe that some of us feel that we are ignored and deemed not important or not intelligent enough to know anything. I trust that, if this resolution is passed, it will encourage my age group to vote and become more involved politically. Your approval will say to us that somebody actually cares what our opinions are and that our votes actually do count for something. Realizing the power of one's vote is called political efficacy. This resolution, I feel, will encourage young adults to recognize their individual and collective political efficacy.

A second argument against this resolution could be that seventeen-year-olds are not mature enough or they lack the knowledge of government to vote for a worthy candidate. First, let me address the lack of government knowledge. All Kansas high school juniors and seniors are required by the state to take a government class before they can graduate. So let me ask, how can one say that seventeen-year-olds have no knowledge of government when it is a required course for obtaining a high school diploma? Obviously, students are learning the various elements of government and are therefore informed on various political topics.

Secondly, is the concept that seventeen-year-olds are not mature enough to vote. In answer to this, I have another question for you. How does one honestly mark an age at which a person has reached maturity? I do not believe that there is any way to truly determine when a whole group of people can be deemed mature. So, on what, may I ask, are people basing their conclusion that seventeen-year-olds are not mature enough? I do not believe that it is fair to lump all seventeen-year-olds into a group and say that they are not mature enough. Now, it is

true that there are some young adults who have a long way to go to be mature, but isn't that the case with some people in every age group?

I believe that knowledge plays a part in everyone's maturity. As mentioned above, the knowledge of government is a given thing for high school juniors and seniors. Therefore, I feel that a seventeen, soon to be eighteen, year-old has the knowledge and maturity to vote with intelligence.

Again, I am here before you today to support and encourage House Concurrent Resolution 5042, which I believe will not only encourage young adults to vote, but also to become more politically involved in debating the issues. People argue that seventeen and eighteen-year-olds lack the knowledge and maturity to make a sound decision in an election. I have shown that these arguments are not true. Seventeen and eighteen-year-olds have knowledge; they study government, they study political issues, and they study the candidates. I believe that they can make an intelligent vote.

Once again, I thank you for your time and attention to this proposal before you today. Please remember that your decision will affect so many Kansas high school juniors and seniors.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF
HIAWATHA HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT CLASS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 5042

January 20, 2002

By Carla Schuster

Government Student; Hiawatha High School; Hiawatha, Kansas

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for allowing me to come here today and speak with you in support of this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 5042, which I feel affects many teenagers, approximately thirty-eight thousand in the state of Kansas, and therefore is a very significant issue that needs to be addressed by both this committee and the teenagers in Kansas.

Currently, as you know, the law in Kansas is that only eighteen-year olds can vote, period, in *any* election. I believe that if one is eighteen at the time of the general election and votes then, then they should also be able to vote in the primary election, even if they have not attained the age of eighteen at that time. I believe that their constitutional right to vote is being hindered by these teens' inability to nominate their own candidates, merely because they are under the age of eighteen at the time the primary election.

Furthermore, teenagers are capable of making the decision of whom to vote for. The average student's comprehension of the government is tremendous. Every Kansan student is required to take and pass a government class before graduating from high school. We are not uninformed and are competent enough to vote for the best candidate because ^{we} inform ourselves.

We teenagers are capable of voting for the best-qualified candidate because we study the issues and, more importantly, how the candidates and we ourselves stand on them. Then, we vote for the candidate that best fits our beliefs and principles.

A concern that has been voiced before is that teenagers are too immature to vote and often abuse this right by not voting at all. My answer to this would be the same if someone voiced concerns about the general decrease in the voting population. If you haven't noticed, there is a wide-ranging apathy for voting in the United States, and the teenage population is not immune to it. We have been struck particularly hard because we have often been ignored by the political system and dismissed as immature. I refuse to be labeled as immature or to have my entire generation labeled as such. We want and deserve the right to choose the candidates that we vote for in the general election.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to the opinion of one student. I feel both this resolution and teenagers in general need your attention and support. By voting to present this bill, you would be giving teenagers their full right to vote and all of the privileges that encompass it. As I hope I have shown you, we are fully capable and willing to handle that responsibility. Once more, thank you.

TESTIMONY OF
HIAWATHA HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT STUDENTS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
ON HCR 5042

February 20, 2002

By Taylor Lenon, Student at Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha, Kansas

I am testifying as a proponent of House Concurrent Resolution no. 5042.

Although I am in favor passing the resolution, I would first, like to focus on some major arguments against the resolution. Opponents of the resolution are quick to site the fact that voter turnout in the 18-24 year old age group is the lowest of any category. Critics say, "Well they don't vote anyway; so why let more of them vote."

This argument seems illogical. We should be doing everything we can to encourage this age group to vote. These voters are the future of America and should not be ignored. This is like denying the ill medical care, because they are ill.

A doctor treats the sick not the healthy. The doctor will examine the patient, make a diagnosis, and often times a prescription will be written out to remedy the ailment. We know the diagnosis, lack of participation. And, I think the prescription to help remedy low turnout in this age group and encourage youth participation is the passage of HCR 5042.

Not only is their argument illogical, but is also stereotypical. It places every voter in the state of Kansas between the ages of 18 and 24 in the same category. Even if only 25% of the 38,000 people affected would be interested in voting, that's still 9,500 people that can be encouraged to become aware of and active in politics.

I am not in favor of lowering the voting age by any means and that is not the objective of this resolution. The resolution gives eligible voters the full value of their vote by allowing them to vote in the primary. Often times the primary election is the "real" election. There may be two or more candidates in the primary from one party running without opposition from the opposing political party. In this case, when the 18 year old who was unable to vote in the primary goes to vote in the general election there is only one name on the ballot. This cannot really be considered a vote; it is really more of a formality. In the former USSR, the people were also allowed to vote. There was only one name on the ballot, but they could still vote. In order to have an effective system there must be a choice. We have to give all eligible voters a choice, and to do that we need to pass this resolution.

This would have directly affected me, had the presidential election occurred in 2001. Because my birthday is in September, I would have been eligible for the November general election, but I would have had no say in which candidates were on the ballot. The primary elections in Kansas occurred in April for the Democrats and in May for the Republicans. I would have felt cheated if I had been denied the full value of my vote.

I thank you for your time and urge you to pass this resolution. I believe that we need to encourage voters in this age group to become active and aware of the issues. Every vote should count, and every eligible voter should have a choice in who represents them.



Shawnee County Commissioner of Elections

Elizabeth Ensley
Election Commissioner
Norine Staab
Asst. Election Commissioner

911 S.W. 37th, Suite A
Topeka, Kansas 66611-2378
(785) 266-0285

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 20, 2002

TO: Representative Tony Powell, Chairman
Ethics and Elections Committee

FROM: Elizabeth Ensley
Shawnee County Election Commissioner

RE: House Concurrent Resolution No. 5042 – Seventeen Year Old Vote

Thank you for allowing me to appear today. I am not here to oppose or to speak in favor of HCR 5042 which legalizes 17 year olds to vote in the August Primary Election. I simply have some questions regarding this procedure and would like to bring some issues to your attention.

Not all races on the August ballot are a nomination procedures. Questions are frequently placed on the August ballot. Precinct Committee Officials are also on the August ballot. Both are actually general elections, because the vote determines the final outcome.

1. Would the wording of HCR 5042 allow the qualifying 17 year olds to vote on questions or precinct committee officials? **If not:**
 - Two additional ballot styles per precinct would be necessary. This would greatly increase the cost of ballots.
 - Of real concern, is that the board workers would have to keep track of five styles of ballots and make sure that they gave the correct ballot to the right person. This could be tricky since two ballots would look alike (Republican for 18+ and Republican for 17 year olds / Democratic for 18+ and Democratic for 17 year olds)

Imagine an election where a controversial bond question failed by 3 votes. It is later found that one board worker in one precinct accidentally handed out the 17 year olds' ballot which does not have the question on it, to 25 people who walked in the polling place. (25 is the minimum number of ballots which can be sent to a polling place.) No one would know which 25 people got the wrong ballot.

House Ethics and Elections
2-20-02
Attachment 8

2. Can the wording be changed (or would you be interested in changing) to clarify that all of the eligible 17 year olds could vote on the whole ballot?
3. Since Precinct Committee Offices are not public offices but are party offices, would the parties have to agree to the change?
4. Would the parties have to agree to allow this change in the nomination procedure as well?
5. What if one of the parties does not agree to the change?
6. If 17 year olds are eligible to vote on special questions in the Primary, would they be eligible to vote on special elections anytime during the period they can register?
 - If they **cannot** vote on special questions and we hold a special election between the primary and the general election, would we have to put the 17 year old voters' names on the books, take them off and then put them on again.
 - If they **can** vote on a question on the Primary ballot, can they vote on a special election held between the Primary but before the General election? What about any special election after they turn 17 but before the Primary election?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am neither in favor or against eligible 17 year olds voting, but I am concerned about the administration of this law as it is currently written.