

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *Proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to qualifications of*
5 *voters; sixteen-year-olds permitted to vote in local elections.*

6 Patron—Glass

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **RESOLVED** by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, a majority of the members elected to each
9 house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same hereby is,
10 proposed and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next general election
11 of members of the House of Delegates for its concurrence in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of
12 Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

13 Amend Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

14 **ARTICLE II**

15 **FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS**

16 **Section 1. Qualifications of voters.**

17 In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of
18 the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in this
19 section, and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. No person who has been convicted of a felony
20 shall be qualified to vote unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate
21 authority. As prescribed by law, no person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent shall be qualified to vote
22 until his competency has been reestablished.

23 *Notwithstanding the requirement that a voter shall be eighteen years of age, any person who is sixteen*
24 *years of age or older and is otherwise qualified to vote shall be permitted to register to vote and to vote in*
25 *local elections.*

26 The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the
27 precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a
28 place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their
29 spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place
30 of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time
31 limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for
32 having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a
33 former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also
34 provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new
35 residents of the Commonwealth.

36 Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted
37 to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

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