

'Sweet 16 Initiative': Proposal to lower Colorado's voting age from 18-years-old to 16-years-old.

The **'Sweet 16 Initiative'** is being proposed for review and comment by Carl E. Reichley II and Rachelle Lee Reichley of 2355 Forest Street Denver, CO 80207.

The intent of the **'Sweet 16 Initiative'** is to lower the outdated voting age requirement for our Colorado youth and allow them, beginning at age sixteen (16), to vote in all local and statewide elections.

The purpose of the **'Sweet 16 Initiative'** is for Colorado voters to set a precedence and embrace the voices and diverse perspectives of our disenfranchised youth and further encourage and empower their path to civic responsibility by allowing them to participate in the political process.

The upheaval of the Vietnam Era pressured Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act of 1970 and lower the voting age from 21 to 18. I/we feel strongly that the eighteen-year-olds of the past, are the savvy, informed and influential sixteen and seventeen-year-olds of today.

The Senate Report, now nearly fifty-years-old, that accompanied the Twenty-Sixth Amendment (constitutioncenter.org) explained that it was proposed for three main reasons and, although the report applied to then, eighteen-year-olds, I/we feel their words ring true today to our evolved sixteen and seventeen-year-old's:

- 1) "younger citizens are fully mature enough to vote."
- 2) "bear all or most of an adult's responsibilities."
- 3) [young voters should be given the chance] "to influence our society in a peaceful and constructive manner."

Furthermore, seventeen-year-olds are even permitted (with parental consent) to serve in the very adult world of the United States military.

The following three pages copied directly from the Youth Law portion of The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment further emphasize not only the job opportunities Colorado Law allows and entrusts to our youth, but even the Federal Laws that note the vast amount of non-hazardous occupations and that "16 year-olds and older may work any number of hours at any time of the day."

Colorado Law	Federal Law
<p>9 year-olds are permitted employment involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of handbills, advertising, and advertising samples. • Shoeshining. • Gardening and care of lawns involving no power-driven lawn equipment. • Cleaning of walks involving no power-driven snow-removal equipment. • Casual work usual to the home of the employer and not specifically prohibited. • Caddying on golf courses. • Any other occupation similar to those listed above and not specifically prohibited. 	<p>14 is the minimum age for working, unless one of the FLSA exemptions applies.</p>
<p>12 year-olds are permitted employment involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupations listed above. • Sale and delivery of periodicals. • Door-to-door selling and delivery of merchandise. • Baby-sitting. • Gardening and care of lawns, including the operation of power-driven lawn equipment if such type of equipment is approved by the division or if the minor has received training conducted or approved by the division in the operation of the equipment. • Cleaning of walks, including the operation of power-driven snow-removal equipment. • Agricultural work, except for any such work considered hazardous under federal laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act. • Any occupation similar to those enumerated above and not specifically prohibited. 	<p>14 is the minimum age for working, unless one of the FLSA exemptions applies.</p>
<p>14 year-olds are permitted employment involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupations listed above. • Non-hazardous occupations in manufacturing. • Public messenger service and errands by foot, bicycle, and public transportation. • Operation of automatic enclosed freight and passenger elevators. • Janitorial and custodial service, including the operation of vacuum cleaners and floor waxers. 	<p>14 and 15 year-olds may work in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail stores. • Food service establishments. • Gasoline service stations. <p>The jobs 14 and 15 year-olds may perform include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bagging and carrying out customer orders.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office work and clerical work, including the operation of office equipment. • Warehousing and storage, including unloading and loading of vehicles. • Non-hazardous construction and non-hazardous repair work. See Advisory Bulletin # 4 (III) for hazardous occupations for minors. • Occupations in retail food service. <p>Occupations in gasoline service establishments including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensing gasoline, oil, and other consumer items. • Courtesy service. • Car cleaning, washing, and polishing. • The use of hoists (where supervised). • Changing tires. Note: No minor may inflate or change any tire mounted on a rim equipped with a removable retaining ring. <p>Occupations in retail stores including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cashiering. • Selling. • Modeling. • Art work. • Work in advertising departments. • Window trimming. • Price marking by hand or machine. • Assembling orders. • Packing and shelving. • Bagging and carrying out customers' orders. • Occupations in restaurants, hotels, motels, or other public accommodations. Note: minors may not operate power food slicers and grinders. • Occupations related to parks or recreation including, but not limited to, recreation aides and conservation projects. • Any other occupation which is similar to those enumerated above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cashiering, selling, modeling, artwork, advertising, window trimming, or comparative shopping. • Cleaning fruits and vegetables. • Clean-up work and grounds maintenance, including vacuums and floor waxers, but not power-driven mowers, cutters, and trimmers. • Delivery work by foot, bicycle, or public transportation • Kitchen work in preparing and serving food and drinks, but not cooking or baking. • Office and clerical work. • Pricing and tagging goods, assembling orders, packing, or shelving. • Pumping gas, cleaning and polishing cars and trucks (but not including car repair, using garage lifting racks, or working in pits). • Wrapping, weighing, pricing, or stocking any goods as long as they don't work where meat is being prepared and don't work in freezers or coolers.
<p>16 year-olds and older are permitted employment involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any occupation listed above. 	<p>16 year-olds and older are permitted employment in any non-hazardous occupation.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any occupation which involves the use of a motor vehicle if the minor is licensed to operate the motor vehicle pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes. 	
18 year-olds are not minors and are not subject to Colorado youth laws.	18 year-olds are not subject to Federal child labor laws.
<p>Both the CYEOA and the FLSA list hazardous occupations that are prohibited for minors of any age. To review the state standards, please refer to the CYEOA fact sheet. For the list of prohibited jobs at the federal level, please visit the US Department of Labor Youth Rules website and click on the box labeled, "Know The Rules."</p>	

Work Hours

Colorado Law	Federal Law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On school days, during school hours, no minor under the age of 16 is permitted employment except as granted by a school release permit. On school days, after school hours, no minor under the age of 16 is permitted to work in excess of 6 hours unless the next day is not a school day. Except for babysitters, no minor under the age of 16 is permitted employment between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. unless the next day is not a school day. Minors may not work more than 40 hours per week or 8 hours in any 24-hour period unless there is a business emergency. 	<p>14 and 15 year-olds can only work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school hours. After 7:00 a.m. or before 7:00 p.m., except from June 1 through Labor Day when they can work until 9:00 p.m. <p>14 and 15 year-olds cannot work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 3 hours a day on school days. More than 18 hours per week in school weeks. More than 8 hours a day on non-school days. More than 40 hours per week when school is not in session. <u>16 year-olds and older may work for any number of hours at any time of the day.</u>

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your correspondence.

Sincerely,

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