

# THE STATES RATIFY FULL VOTE AT 18

## Ohio Becomes 38th to Back the 26th Amendment

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 30—The 26th Amendment to the Constitution lowering to 18 years the minimum voting age in local and state as well as Federal elections, was ratified tonight.

Ohio became the 38th state to approve the Amendment when the state's House of Representatives, meeting in extraordinary evening session, gave its assent, 81 to 9. The Ohio Senate had approved the measure yesterday, 30 to 2.

The ratification of at least 38 states, or three-quarters of the total, is required for constitutional amendments.

An atmosphere of near-panic attended Ohio's climactic vote. The Republican Speaker of the House, Charles F. Kurfess, had planned to let a number of members, both Republicans and Democrats, speak on the issue before calling for a vote.

But after only three short speeches, the Republican floor leader, Robert E. Leavitt, interrupted to warn:

"I've just been informed that the Legislature of Oklahoma

Continued on Page 43, Column 1

**The New York Times**

Published: July 1, 1971

Copyright © The New York Times

# States Ratify Full 18-Year-Old Vote

Continued From Page 1, Col.4

has gone into special session tonight. The time for debate and discussion is over. The time for action is here."

Over the shouted protests of several back-benchers, Mr. Kurfess then gavelled through a motion cutting off debate. To the accompaniment of more cat-calls, he ordered an immediate roll-call, which ended at 8:05 P.M.

In fact, Ohio had no reason to worry that it would lose its place of distinction. The Oklahoma Legislature was not scheduled to go into session until tomorrow.

Ratification means that millions of young voters will be able to participate in elections this year, including contests for Governor in Mississippi and Kentucky, mayoral elections in Boston, San Francisco and other large cities and scores of races in towns and counties.

In addition, it removes the legal cloud that had hung over the right of young voters to cast their ballots in Presidential primaries next year.

Political commentators have gradually arrived at the conclusion, which runs counter to their earlier thesis, that the Democrats will be aided by the enfranchising of the young. The most recent analysts to state that view is Samuel Lubell, in an article in this week's issue of Look magazine.

But one issue, still unresolved, could blunt the effect of the change: the question of where students can register—where they live or where they attend school. Most states have forbidden students to register at school, and experience indicates that they will not vote heavily if forced to resort to the absentee ballot.

## Challenge Under Way

Local politicians have expressed the fear that they could be voted out of office, particularly in college towns, by students with no proprietary interest in the towns. Their view is already under challenge in State courts and will soon be challenged in Federal courts in several states as well.

The Voting Rights Act of 1970 gave the franchise to young people in all elections. But the Supreme Court earlier this year struck down the measure to the degree that it would have affected state and local elections, while upholding its applicability to Federal voting.

On March 23, in order to avoid widespread confusion, Congress gave final approval to the proposed amendment.

Ratification has come with a rush as opposition to youth voting collapsed. It has been only two months and seven days since the process of getting the requisite 38 assents began—by far the shortest time in which the process has ever been accomplished. The old record was six months and six days in 1804 for the 12th Amendment, which provided for separate balloting for President and Vice President.

## North Carolina 37th

Illinois became the 35th state to ratify yesterday.

Then, this morning, Alabama became the 36th. The House of Representatives had acted last Thursday, and the Senate concurred, 31 to 4, after a filibuster failed. Its leader, Senator James A. Branyon, a 64-year-old conservative from Fayette in central Alabama, said, "I'm physically unable to stand here any longer," sat down, and the vote followed.

At 4:21 P.M., the North Carolina Senate made that state the 37th to ratify. After House approval in March, the measure had been held up in the Senate by rural Democrats, but Lieut. Gov. Pat Taylor, hoping to make North Carolina's the decisive vote, managed to push aside the opposition. The final vote was 38 to 7.

Conceivably, a mild squabble over who was 38th could break out. North Carolina officials, apparently still hoping to play the decisive role, delayed in signing an "enrolled bill"—the official copy—until tomorrow morning.

According to Common Cause, the citizens' lobbying organization that played a prominent role in the ratification effort, the Amendment does not actually take effect until the General Services Administration in Washington has received an official record of each state's action. But that is considered a mere formality.

When notified of the ratification, President Nixon said at the White House, "Some 11 million young men and women who have participated in the life of our nation through their work, their studies and their sacrifices for its defense now are to be fully included in the electoral process of our country."

"I urge them to honor this right by exercising it—by registering and voting in each election."

## TEXT OF AMENDMENT

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## NEW VOTERS IN 1972

	Population of Voting Age	New Voters 18-20	New Voters Total
Alabama	2,291,000	199,000	440,000
Alaska*	193,000	6,000	29,000
Arizona	1,227,000	107,000	232,000
Arkansas	1,318,000	104,000	230,000
California	14,237,000	1,169,000	2,580,000
Colorado	1,532,000	145,000	319,000
Connecticut	2,117,000	156,000	343,000
Delaware	372,000	31,000	68,000
Florida	5,088,000	354,000	773,000
Georgia**	3,111,000	—	354,000
Hawaii***	528,000	31,000	91,000
Idaho	467,000	42,000	90,000
Illinois	7,563,000	605,000	1,321,000
Indiana	3,487,000	303,000	662,000
Iowa	1,887,000	160,000	347,000
Kansas	1,539,000	138,000	304,000
Kentucky**	2,177,000	—	254,000
Louisiana	2,356,000	230,000	497,000
Maine	662,000	55,000	122,000
Maryland	2,715,000	216,000	478,000
Massachusetts	3,947,000	330,000	725,000
Michigan	5,875,000	520,000	1,127,000
Minnesota	2,523,000	221,000	478,000
Mississippi	1,412,000	136,000	297,000
Missouri	3,222,000	261,000	569,000
Montana	452,000	38,000	84,000
Nebraska	1,002,000	88,000	191,000
Nevada	356,000	24,000	54,000
New Hampshire	511,000	44,000	95,000
New Jersey	5,018,000	350,000	769,000
New Mexico	633,000	58,000	129,000
New York	12,714,000	954,000	2,101,000
North Carolina	3,493,000	341,000	750,000
North Dakota	398,000	38,000	83,000
Ohio	7,165,000	600,000	1,313,000
Oklahoma	1,791,000	147,000	325,000
Oregon	1,473,000	119,000	259,000
Pennsylvania	8,136,000	626,000	1,371,000
Rhode Island	671,000	60,000	135,000
South Carolina	1,715,000	178,000	391,000
South Dakota	430,000	41,000	88,000
Tennessee	2,710,000	232,000	511,000
Texas	7,589,000	678,000	1,490,000
Utah	674,000	70,000	154,000
Vermont	301,000	30,000	64,000
Virginia	3,232,000	286,000	645,000
Washington	2,381,000	211,000	460,000
West Virginia	1,175,000	99,000	217,000
Wisconsin	2,948,000	263,000	565,000
Wyoming	217,000	18,000	40,000
District of Columbia	543,000	48,000	111,000
UNITED STATES	139,563,000	11,159,000	25,125,000

\*Previously allowed 19-year-olds to vote.

\*\*Previously allowed 18-year-olds to vote.

\*\*\*Previously allowed 20-year-olds to vote.