



April 1, 2013

Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Chairwoman Spearman,
& Members of the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections,

Rock the Vote appreciates this opportunity to **support Senate Bill 375**, as well as the conceptual amendment presented by sponsor Senator Segerblom. We ask that this statement of support be entered into the record in support of the bill, as amended.

Rock the Vote is a national, nonpartisan advocacy organization with a mission to engage and build political power for young people in our country. We do this by engaging them in the electoral process, urging politicians to pay attention to issues that matter to young voters, and protecting their fundamental right to vote. Using music, popular culture, new technologies, and grassroots organizing for more than 20 years, Rock the Vote has registered more than 5 million young people, including a record-shattering 2.25 million registration downloads in the historic 2008 election.

Rock the Vote is pleased to support this voter registration modernization effort. Senate Bill 375, as modified by the sponsor's amendment, fully modernizes Nevada's voter registration process. It opens the state's online registration tool to all voters and enacts preregistration to allow young citizens to register to vote starting at age 16. This bill will improve the process for all voters, but the innovations are particularly exciting for young people – with young people surging into the electorate in such huge numbers.

First, this bill leverages new technologies to update an antiquated, paper-based process designed for the 19th century. Rock the Vote is committed to propelling our registration system into the 21st century to reflect the needs of the modern electorate. In addition to automating voter registration opportunities at state agencies, the bill puts Secretary of State Ross Miller's innovative online registration system into state law and expands it to voters who do not hold a DMV ID. Registering online makes the system more secure, more accurate, and more cost efficient. Bringing voter registration into the digital age will make the registration process more accessible to Nevada's youth and is a great step towards facilitating greater participation in our democracy.

SB 375 also enacts preregistration for any eligible 16 or 17-year old citizen. Allowing preregistration not only makes it easier to conduct and participate in voter registration activities on high school campuses and DMVs (since it captures more young people before they graduate), it also helps boost civic participation once those voters turn 18. Rock the Vote has previously



worked with Secretary Miller, who has pledged his support for Democracy Class, our innovative program that combines civic education and voter registration in high school classrooms. In Democracy Class, Rock the Vote works to educate young voters across the country about their rights, civic responsibilities, and opportunities to vote; and in states that allow preregistration, every student also gets the right to actually register. This is good public policy for our youth, and for our democracy. With the passage of SB 375, Nevada will have the opportunity to build on these efforts and become a standout national leader in modern voter registration policy.

We ask you to join us in supporting Senate Bill 375, and to vote yes on the legislation and its sponsor amendment. Thank you for your time and attention to this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Smith".

Heather Smith
President, Rock the Vote