HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 4486 FILED ON: 3/7/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3918

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christine P. Barber

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for City of Somerville residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Christine P. Barber	*34th Middlesex*	*3/7/2025*
Mike Connolly	*26th Middlesex*	*4/9/2025*
Erika Uyterhoeven	*27th Middlesex*	*4/11/2025*

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By Representative Barber of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3918) of Christine P. Barber (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Somerville be authorized to provide voting rights in municipal elections for certain residents aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *3742* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for City of Somerville residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged 16 or 17 years old residing in the City of Somerville, who is ineligible to vote due to age under state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their names entered on a list of voters established by the board of election commissioners for the City of Somerville. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot question in the City of Somerville.

SECTION 2. Said board of election commissioners shall establish a separate registration list for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each local voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular voter in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote. Said board shall create and print, at the city of Somerville's expense, the special registration form needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and forms to implement the purpose of this act.

SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the City of Somerville.

SECTION 5. The City of Somerville is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to implement the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Somerville city charter.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.