



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10766



Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The strength of any democracy rests upon an informed and discerning electorate. Each election cycle, millions of young Filipinos become eligible voters, and that is why it is urgent and imperative to prepare them for this life-changing civic participation.

The rise of digital platforms has transformed the way Filipinos receive political information. Like a double-edged sword, technology has widened access to public discourse but has also exposed citizens, particularly the youth, to misinformation, disinformation, historical distortion, and political propaganda disseminated through social media and other online platforms. As stated in a research published in 2020¹, the Philippines has been in a “post-truth era,” wherein public opinion is often shaped less by verified facts and more by emotionally charged narratives, viral content, and algorithm-driven information consumption². This development poses serious risks to democratic participation and electoral integrity.

This phenomenon in the Philippines demonstrates the growing influence of digital misinformation in shaping political behavior. Numerous studies and reports³ identified the country as highly vulnerable to organized online disinformation campaigns, including the use of troll networks, fake accounts, and coordinated propaganda to manipulate public opinion and electoral discourse. More recently, researchers documented the continuing proliferation of fake and coordinated online activities surrounding the Philippine elections, emphasizing the need to strengthen citizens’ capacity to critically assess political information.

¹ Post-truth era in the Philippines? Centeno, Kevin Stephon. 2020. Retrieved https://www.academia.edu/42741100/Post_truth_era_in_the_Philippines

² https://www.academia.edu/42741100/Post_truth_era_in_the_Philippines

³ Democracy under Threat: Post-Truth Politics and Democracy in the Philippines. Sacramento et. al. Vol. 28. No. 2 (2025): July-December. Thammasat Review. Retrieved from <https://sc01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/tureview/article/view/241283>

This concern has been really alarming, considering the growing electoral influence of the youth. Data show that young voters comprise a significant portion of the Philippine voting population, with millions of newly registered voters belonging to the youth demographic⁴. In 2021, Millennials and Generation Z were the majority of registered voters--proof that they are one of the most decisive forces in shaping the country's future⁵.

Despite the importance of civic participation, voter education among young Filipinos remains largely limited to election-period campaigns or shallow discussions in classrooms. Many first-time voters enter the electoral process without a clear understanding of democratic institutions, electoral systems, governance, media literacy, or the responsibilities accompanying the right to suffrage.

This measure seeks to institutionalize voter education in the Junior High School and Senior High School curricula to cultivate politically aware, media-literate, and critically thinking Filipino citizens. By integrating age-appropriate lessons on democratic participation, electoral processes, responsible citizenship, fact-checking, digital literacy, and critical evaluation of political information, students will be better equipped to distinguish truth from propaganda and make informed electoral choices.

More importantly, this bill recognizes that voting is not merely a constitutional right but a solemn civic responsibility. Schools must help prepare future voters not only to participate in elections, but to exercise discernment, resist manipulation, and uphold democratic values.

Sa panahong mabilis ang pagkalat ng mga propaganda, tahasang pagsisinungaling at pagbabaluktot sa katotohanan at kasaysayan, mariin nating isinusulong na maturuan ang Kabataan na maging mapanuri, maalam, kritikal, at responsableng mamamayan ng ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagboto nang tama.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. JC ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist

⁴ Comelec logs 4M new voters aged 28 to 21. Patinio, Ferdinand. October 15, 2021 Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/>

⁵ 2021 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS5) highlights initial results on youth votes. Published on 28 April 2022 Retrieved from <https://www.uppi.upd.edu.ph/news/2022/yafs5-youth-votes>



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**AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Compulsory
Voter Education Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
to enlighten citizens on their right to vote and to inculcate in them the duty to
preserve the integrity of the electoral process through the educational system.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Voter Education.* –As used in this Act, "Voter
Education" refers to the dissemination of information, materials, and
programs designed to inform citizens about the specifics and mechanics of
the voting process. It includes information on the right of suffrage, its
importance, and the proper exercise thereof, as well as information on who is
eligible to vote; where and how to register; how electors may verify their
inclusion in the voter list; the type of elections being held; where, when, and
how to vote; who the candidates are; and how to file complaints.

For purposes of this Act, Voter Education also means the full
understanding of the electoral process and of students' responsibilities as
future voters. It includes, among others, the functions, qualifications, and
responsibilities of elective officials; the various elective positions in local and
national government; the powers and duties attached to each position; and
the importance of evaluating candidates based on their qualifications,
platforms, and public service record.

Voter Education shall also include media literacy, developed to build
critical thinking among Junior and Senior High School students, enabling
them to distinguish whether online material constitutes propaganda,
misinformation, or reliable information.

SEC. 4. Integration of Voter Education in the Junior and Senior High School Curricula. – Voter Education shall be integrated by the Department of Education (DepEd) in the junior and senior high school curricula, effective at the start of the school year immediately following one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The one (1) year transition period by conducting seminars and trainings on the electoral system and process. COMELEC shall certify that the teacher, after attending such seminars and trainings, is qualified to teach topics relating to the electoral system and process.

SEC. 5. Voter Education Syllabus. – This section outlines the core components of the Voter Education Syllabus, presenting the following:

Voter education. – The main syllabus shall include, but not limited to, the following thematic areas:

1. *Suffrage* – This area introduces to students the right to vote accorded by the Constitution, and other rights enabling citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs;
2. *Electoral system and process* – This area deals with the general principles underlying the present electoral system, and legislation regulating all the phases of election namely, pre-election, election proper, and post-election. It discusses the proper conduct of elections including registration, casting of ballots, and counting of votes;
3. *Elective offices* – This area concentrates on the various elective positions in local and national government, including but not limited to positions at the barangay, municipal, city, provincial, and national levels. It covers the qualifications, terms of office, and duties attached to each position, as well as the powers, functions, and accountability mechanisms governing elected officials. It also emphasizes the importance of choosing candidates based on their qualifications, platforms, track record, and demonstrated commitment to public service, rather than on popularity, patronage, or personal ties.
4. *Educated voting* – This area focuses on the attitude and behavior a voter must adopt to ensure fair, free, and honest elections. It emphasizes the importance of participating in elections in a manner that shall stimulate and strengthen democracy.
5. *Media Literacy*- This area develops the critical thinking skills of students to enable them to responsibly navigate election-related information across print, broadcast, and online platforms. It covers the identification of fake news, disinformation, and propaganda; the verification of sources and claims through fact-checking; an understanding of how algorithms and social media shape the spread of political content; and the responsible use of social media in discussing candidates, platforms, and electoral issues.
6. *Anti-Political Dynasty Provision of the 1987 Constitution* - This area discusses Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that "the State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." It examines the history and

intent behind this provision, which include the framers' discussion, minutes, and deliberations. This area must explain the distinction between self-executory and non-self-executory constitutional provisions, and why the anti-political dynasty clause requires enabling legislation from Congress to be implemented. Finally, it discusses the role of Congress in enacting an anti-political dynasty law, the legislative history of related bills filed over the years, and the reasons such measures have yet to be passed into law.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, to promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Educational Materials.* – It shall be obligatory on all schools offering secondary education to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbooks, primers, and leaflets on voter education to be issued by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrolment of the school.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,