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### Why We Should Lower The Voting Age to Sixteen

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# WHY WE SHOULD LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 16

SOURCES

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

COUNTERARGUMENTS

CASE STUDIES

WHY 16?

START SMALL

# START SMALL

- School boards
- Municipalities, local elections
- Statewide

# WHY 16?

HABIT  
FORMATION

CIVIC EDUCATION

LACK OF CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT IN  
AMERICA

## WHY 16 INSTEAD OF 18?

- More stable, supported point in life
- 18 = busy point in life (CIRCLE)
- Voting is a social act

# WHY 16?

HABIT  
FORMATION

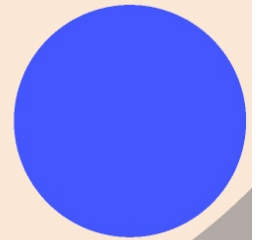
CIVIC EDUCATION

LACK OF CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT IN  
AMERICA

# THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY : ITS CITIZENS



- Pew Research (1)
- US Census Bureau (2)
- UPenn 2014 study (3)



## *Older People Shared Fake News on Facebook More Than Others in 2016 Race, Study Says*



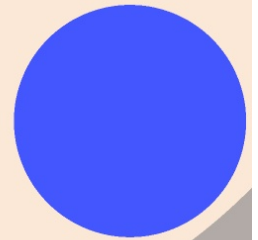
Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, testified at a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees in April. Lawrence Jackson for The New York Times



# THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY : ITS CITIZENS



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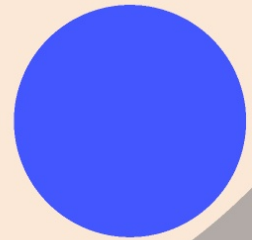
# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Lowering voting age =  
increasing civic engagement  
in America

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# WHY 16?

**HABIT  
FORMATION**

**CIVIC EDUCATION**

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AMERICA**

## CIVICS EDUCATION IN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS



- Only 9 states and Washington D.C. require a year of government or civics classes (4)

REINVIGORATING  
CIVICS  
EDUCATION

## REINVIGORATE CIVICS EDUCATION

- Relevant, interactive, experiential learning
- San Francisco 2016

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REINVIGORATING  
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# WHY 16?

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## HABIT FORMATION



- Impressionable age
- Establish voting and democratic participatory habits for life
- Creating a strong civic climate in high school leads to higher voter turnout in adulthood (9)

# WHY 16?

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# COUNTERARGUMENTS

# COUNTERARGUMENTS

And what I have to say about them!

**#1** 16-year olds are not mature enough to vote

**#2** Lowering the voting age is a progressive power grab

**#3** 16- and 17-year olds will vote the same as their parents

**#4** 16-year olds are not adults contributing to society

- **Voting depends on "cold cognition", in which 16-year olds and adults are equal (1, 2)**

# COUNTERARGUMENTS

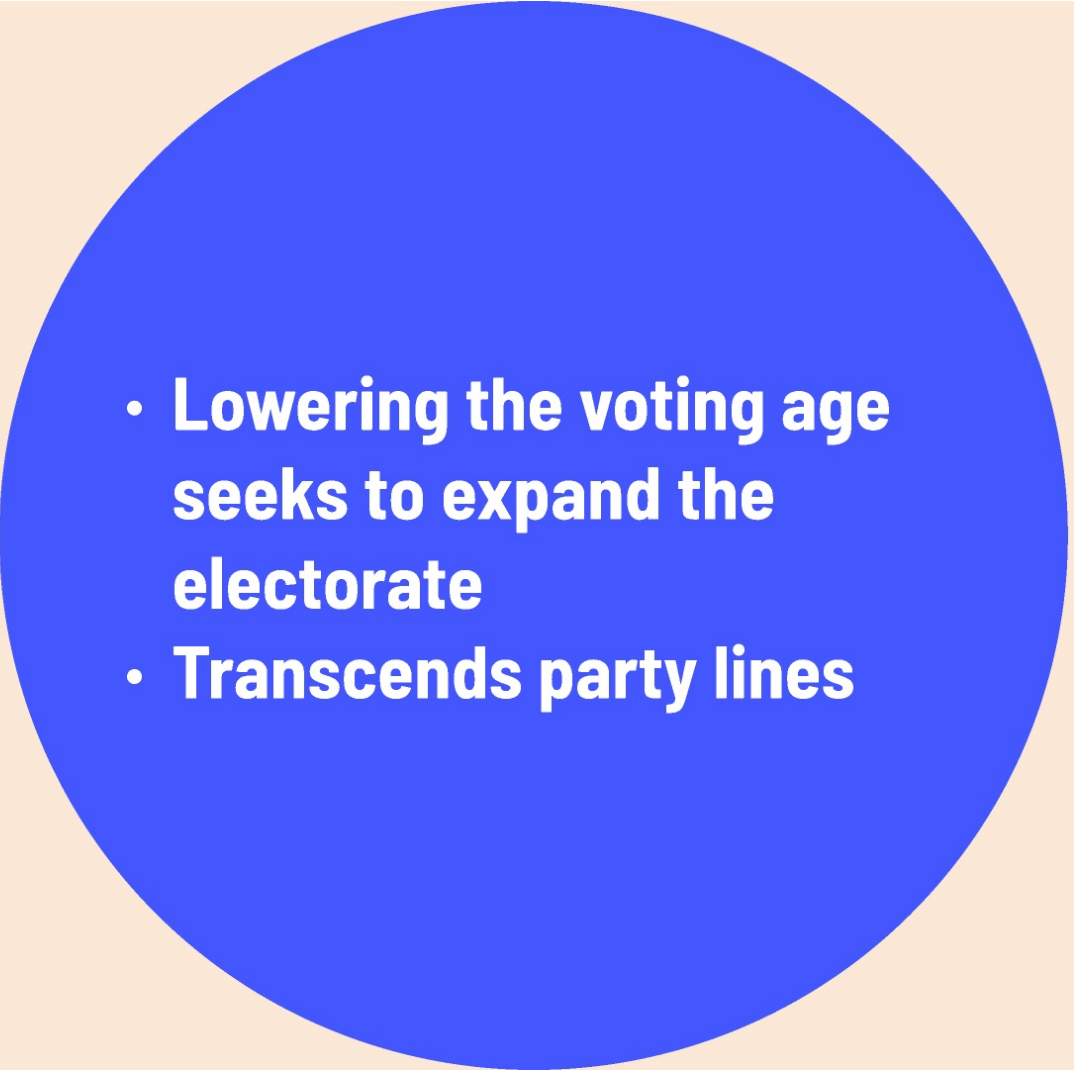
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- 
- **Lowering the voting age seeks to expand the electorate**
  - **Transcends party lines**

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- **2014 Scottish independence referendum says otherwise (3)**

# COUNTERARGUMENTS

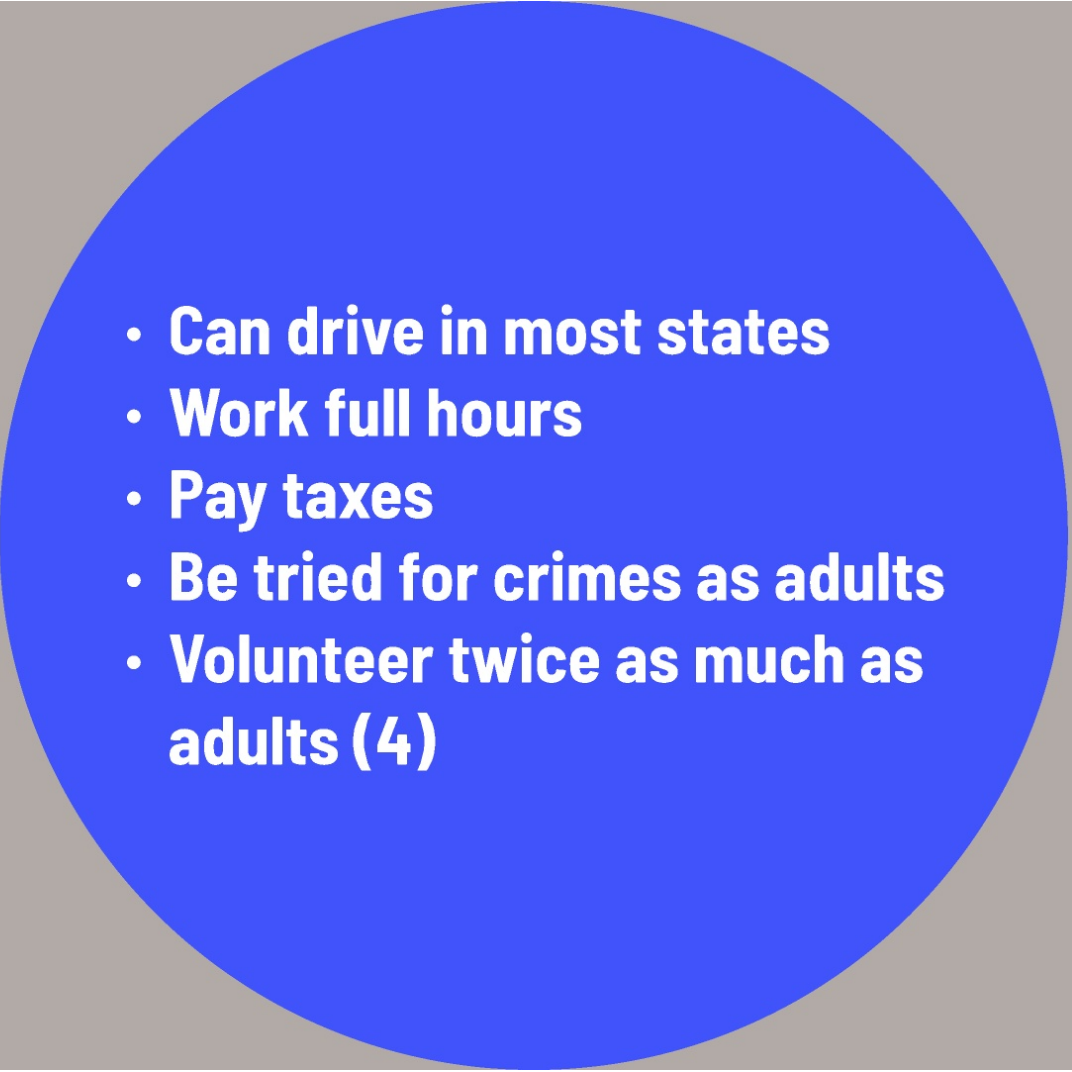
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- 
- **Can drive in most states**
  - **Work full hours**
  - **Pay taxes**
  - **Be tried for crimes as adults**
  - **Volunteer twice as much as adults (4)**

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# DON'T DOUBT THE YOUTH







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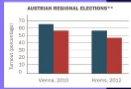
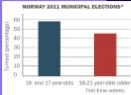
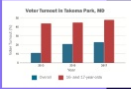




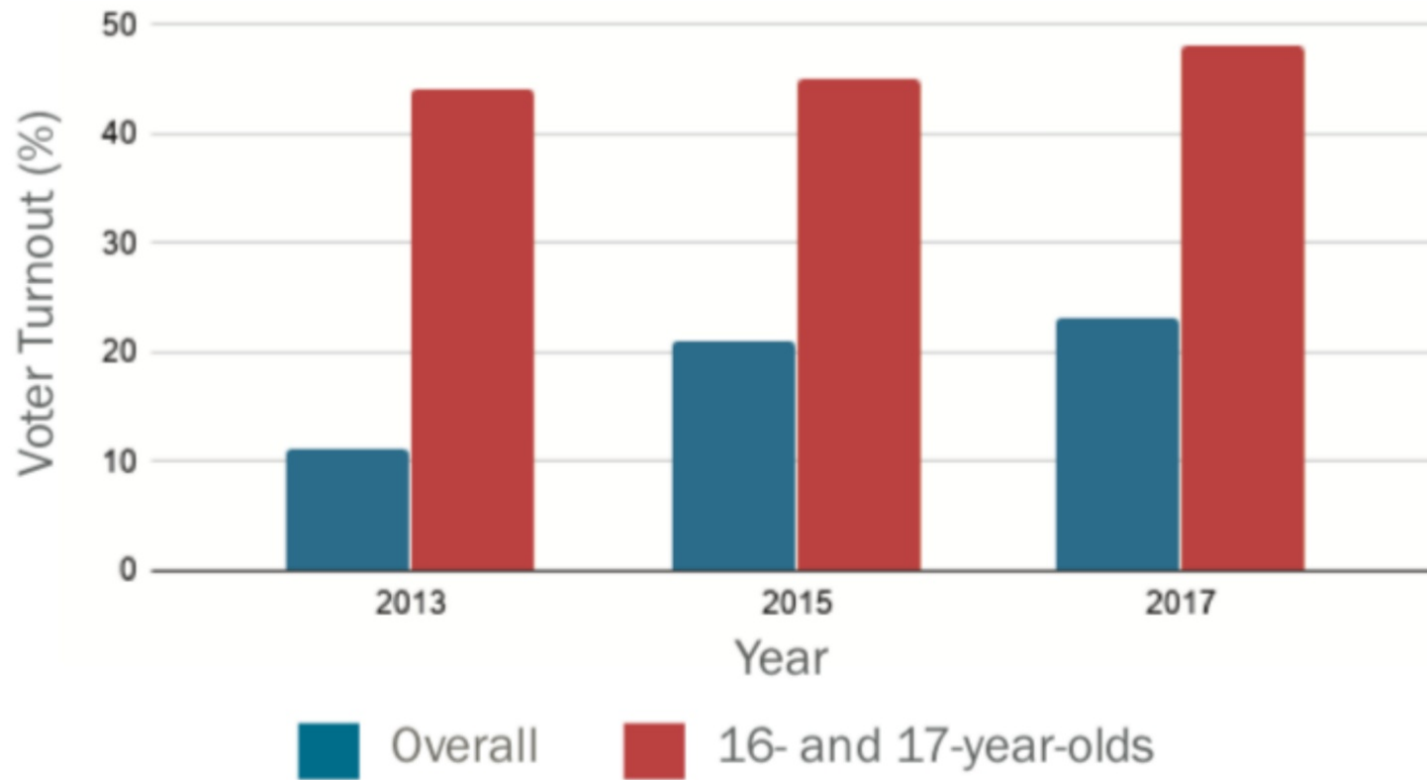
# **COUNTERARGUMENTS**

# CASE STUDIES

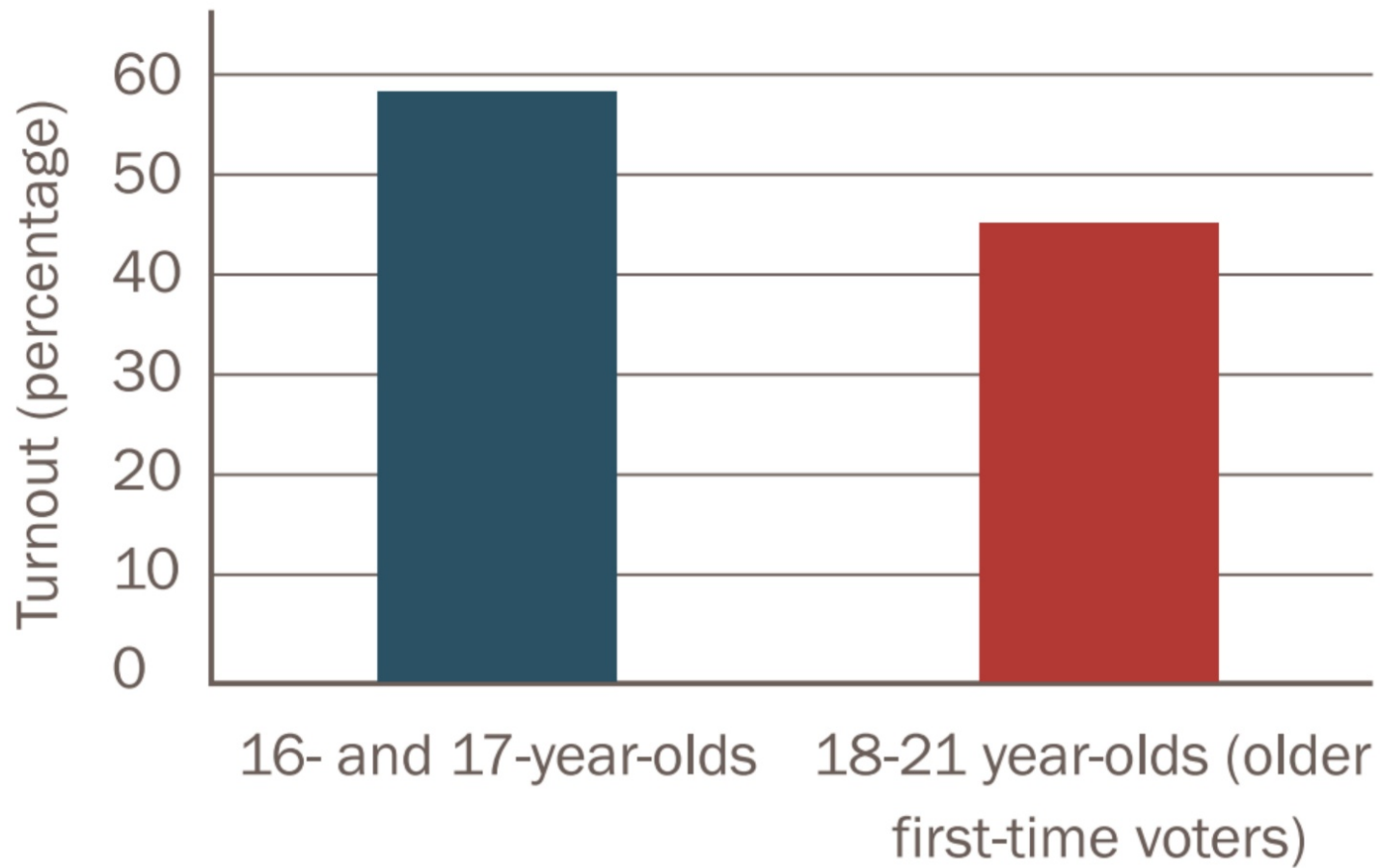
- TACOMA PARK, MD
- NORWAY
- AUSTRIA



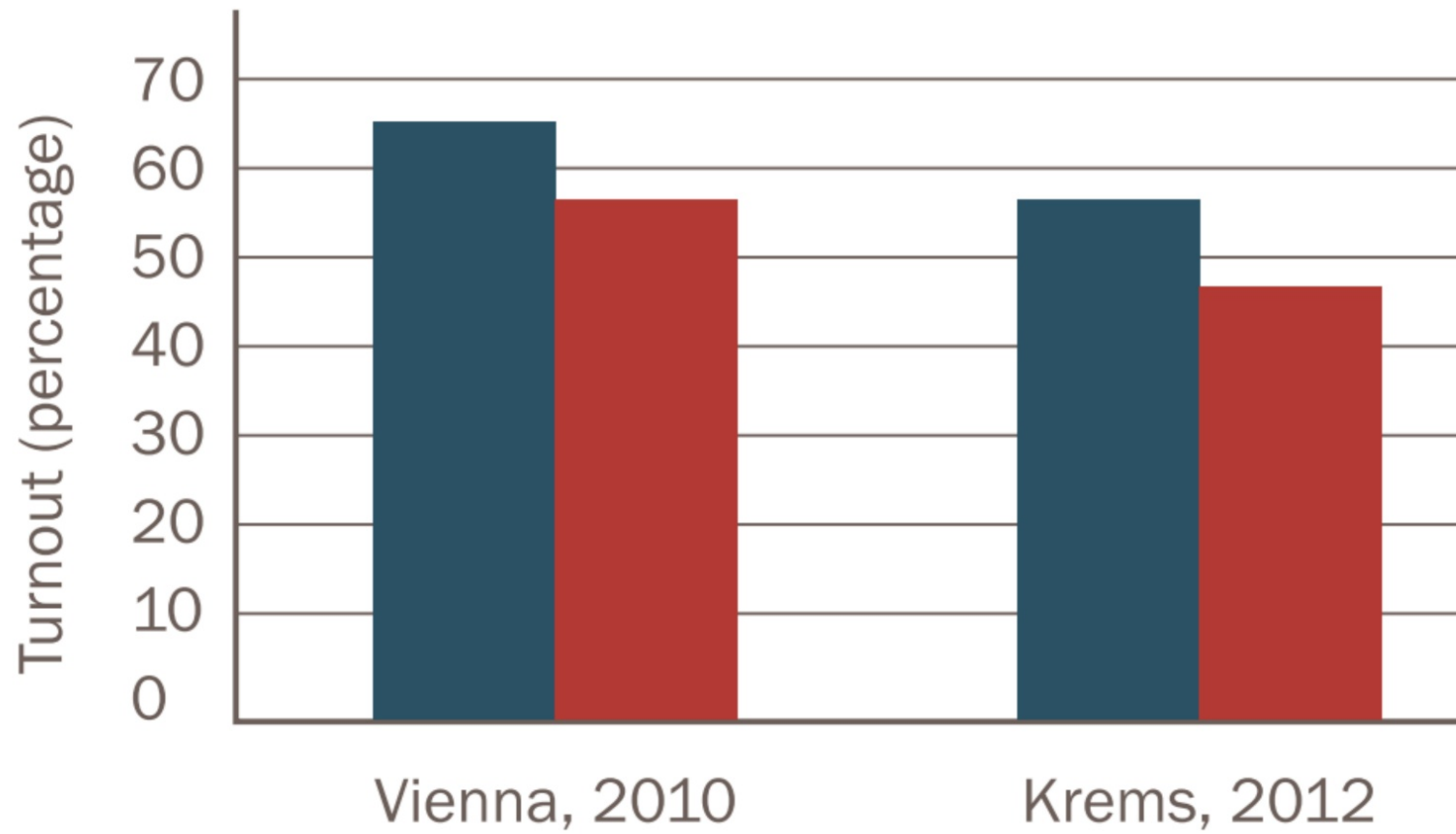
## Voter Turnout in Takoma Park, MD



## NORWAY 2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS\*

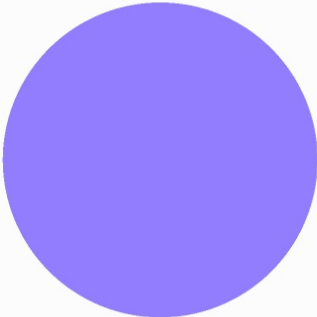


## AUSTRIAN REGIONAL ELECTIONS\*\*





**LOOKING TO THE  
FUTURE**

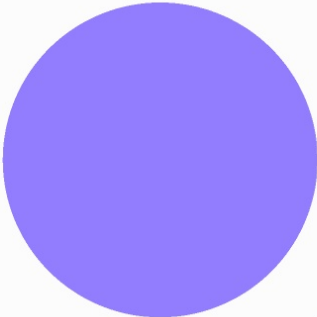




It's a marathon,  
not a sprint.



**LOOKING TO THE  
FUTURE**





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