

“I began my public service career leading the fight to lower the voting age in Oregon and at the national level while a student at Lewis and Clark. Since then, Oregon has led the nation in ease of voting through vote-by-mail, pre-registration, and automatic voter registration. Our next step is allowing sixteen-year-olds the right to vote.

Sixteen-year-olds are legally permitted to work, required to pay income tax on their earnings, permitted to drive motor vehicles on their own, and can be tried as adults in the criminal justice system. It stands to reason that they should be able to shape their future by participating in the political process as well. Indeed, no one has more to lose from the urgent threats of climate change, gun violence, and access to affordable healthcare than the young people who have to live with the consequences of decisions made for them. It is past time that we lower the voting age in Oregon.”

- U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)