

Senator Rob Wagner, Chair  
Senator Fred Girod, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee On Rules  
Thursday, March 11, 2021  
Support for SB 776 and SJR 25

I am a high school senior, who is very involved in local politics. I serve as the youth member on the Lake Oswego Historic Resources Advisory Board, and as a member of the Lake Oswego Youth Leadership Council. In the past, I have served as the youth member on the Lake Oswego Transportation Advisory Board, and as a youth advisor to now-mayor Joe Buck's campaign. I am also considering majoring in political science in college.

America as a nation struggles with voter turnout. The historic turnout in the 2020 presidential election still saw only 2/3 of eligible voters vote. Expanding voting rights to younger teenagers will help combat low voter turnout. Additionally, 16 and 17-year-olds nowadays are a lot more politically aware and involved than older generations might think. Simply put, the weight of addressing systemic racism, climate change, and economic inequality is going to be on the shoulders of Generation Z.

I strongly urge a vote in the affirmative on both SB 776 and SJR 25 to preserve democracy and address the pressing issues our state faces.