

I strongly support the Bill SB 776 to allow 16 to 17 year old students registered to vote to cast ballots in school district elections.

In my experience, my student peers are becoming more and more civically and politically involved. Many of my friends, including myself, participate in leadership roles through student government, sports, and even local government campaigns. Students care about what happens in their schools and communities. This should extend to school district elections, given that the nature of their education is often the most impactful aspect of their childhoods and youths.

At this time, there is a major disconnect between young students and their local school boards. Most students feel they don't have a say in what happens to their education at a district level. Sixteen and seventeen year olds are capable, intelligent, and deserve to have a strong voice in their school district elections, as they are the ones impacted by them the very most. Voting "yes" on this bill will allow young adults to experience participating in local politics at a young age, sending them on their way to becoming vocal and active adults in their communities.