

Submitter: Braxton Jacobs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

As a dad and a speech therapist, I have worked closely with many young people and have seen firsthand their passion and dedication to creating positive change in our communities.

I believe that lowering the voting age to 16 would give young people a powerful voice in our democracy and would help to foster a culture of civic engagement and participation. Many 16- and 17-year-olds are already active participants in their communities, volunteering, and taking on leadership roles in various organizations. They care deeply about issues such as education, healthcare, and social justice, and they deserve to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

Furthermore, research has shown that when young people are given the opportunity to vote, they are more likely to remain engaged in the political process throughout their lives. By giving our youth the opportunity to vote at an earlier age, we are investing in the future of our democracy and creating a better future for all Oregonians.

I also believe that lowering the voting age to 16 would help to create a more inclusive and diverse electorate. Young people from all backgrounds and communities would have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and have their voices heard. This would help to ensure that the decisions made by our elected officials truly reflect the diversity and richness of our communities.