

Submitter: Loretta Johnson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

## OPPOSE HJR 20

Adolescents at 16 are too young and as students not capable of understanding yet what Measures adults are voting.

Anyone who has raised children or taught them realize this.

Please read below to understand what is happening during this time in a child's development:

"The dual systems model proposes a maturational imbalance between development of the socioemotional system and cognitive control systems in the brain that contribute to impulsivity and other behaviors characteristic of adolescence."

"The dual systems model hypothesizes that early maturation of the socioemotional system (including brain regions like the striatum) increases adolescents' attraction for exciting, pleasurable, and novel activities during a time when cognitive control systems (including brain regions like the prefrontal cortex) are not fully developed and thus cannot regulate these appetitive, and potentially hazardous, impulses. 2008)." "The Adolescent Brain". *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 1124 (1): 111–126. Bibcode:2008NYASA1124..111C. doi:10.1196/annals.1440.010. PMC 2475802. PMID 18400927.

"The most commonly recognized characteristics of concern include cognitive impulsivity and emotional intensity and lability (Arnett, 1999; Dahl, 2004; Ernst & Hardin, 2009; Ernst et al., 2006). These cognitive and affective features are thought to place adolescents at an increased risk for engaging in behaviors with deleterious and dangerous consequences, such as tobacco and drug use, risky sexual activity, or reckless driving (Dahl, 2004; Eaton et al., 2006; Hingson, Heeren, Winter, & Wechsler, 2005; Spear, 2000; Steinberg, 2004, 2005). Inter-individual variability within this stereotypical description of the adolescent is large, and can be traced to hormonal changes (e.g., (Bramen et al., 2011; Forbes et al., 2010; Kuhn et al., 2010; Mazzone et al., 2011; Mueller, Ng, et al., 2010; Neufang et al., 2009; Oldehinkel, Verhulst, & Ormel, 2011), early life experience (Andersen & Teicher, 2009; Mueller, Maheu, et al., 2010; Pechtel & Pizzagalli, 2011; Suomi, 2006), genetic make-up (Cohen, 2010; Enoch, 2011; Schwandt et al., 2010)

Over the last 20 years adolescents and young adults are NOT taking on adult responsibilities. Voting earlier is out of the question. It would make more sense to have the voting age increased. More young adults are living at their parents homes until their thirties and not taking a job or driving until their twenties.

Statistically, it is very clear that adolescents are not ready to vote in any official elections in the State of Oregon.