

Submitter: Robert Hart  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

I am opposed to HJR 20 that would allow 16 year olds to vote. To begin, they are minors and cannot enter into contracts. They generally live at home with their parents and are not responsible for their debts. There is a faction that wants the government to pay their college loans that are obligations that they did sign for when they were 18 but now wish to absolve themselves of the responsibility. To allow minors to vote on the function of government and the position to levy taxes is like giving kids credit cards with no responsibility to stand behind their charges. If they don't want to pay they just demand that others pick up the slack. Society has determined that youth are not responsible by providing smoking or gambling until they reach the age of 21. The sole reason that the voting age was lowered to 18 was because of entering the military at that age. If they were old enough to die for their country they should have the right to vote. Sixteen year olds do not have that position in society. Studies have shown that reaching maturity may not happen until the age of 25. It would be irresponsible of adults to grant rights to those who have not reached level of responsibility know the consequences of their actions on state. As a closing statement the approval of this resolution would not allow the right to vote in federal elections and would bring confusion to the voting system.