

Submitter: Alan Zundel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

To the House Committee on Rules:

I support lowering the voting age to 16 in Oregon.

When I was 18 I was eligible to be drafted into the Vietnam War but I was not eligible to vote. That I could be recruited to kill or die yet have no say in the decision to go to war still seems to me terribly unjust.

Today the younger generation lives under similar, and even greater, threats: climate change, optional wars which could lead to nuclear holocaust, and declining prospects for economic security. Yet they have no say in the decisions about how or whether to address these threats to their current and future well-being. This too seems to me to be terribly unjust, particularly for teenagers 16-17 who have awareness of the world around them and the ability to understand it.

If age alone made for greater political knowledge and the ability to reason clearly about political choices we would not have such stark political divisions as we older people do! We can't even agree on factual matters, let alone policy choices.

My opinion is that 16-17 years olds are as capable as most of the voting public to make decisions about how to vote. Those who would be most likely to exercise that right, if they had it, would be the better and informed and more mature of them.

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