

Submitter: Andrew Jewell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

The premise of this bill is nonsensical from the introduction. All citizens are not given the right to vote, rather all ADULT citizens. Life experience as well as emotional and psychological maturity are prerequisites for good judgment and decision-making. It follows then that if we desire wise legislation governing the state then we would require ADULTS to weigh the merits of its measures and leaders.

Encouraging youth to be involved in the political process is a worthy end but is akin to giving them the car keys to encourage them to drive. There are many more age-appropriate means to encourage civic involvement.

The bill's introduction states that lowering the voting age is consistent with the values of our democracy which again makes no sense because one thing has nothing to do with another. We may value our youth and value their engagement in our society but that has nothing to do with the wisdom of electing a teenager to be governor or likewise allowing a teenager to select our leaders.

What seems most likely in the continued push for this legislation is that the political left is in full control of our government schools. It would be a very effective political machine to teach the kids what to vote for during the day and then send them off to the polls in the evening to complete their homework assignments.

I strongly oppose this bill and ask all legislators to stand up for common sense and vote NO.