

Submitter: Sheila Smith  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

Lowering the voting age to 16 is not burdening children with adult responsibilities. It is giving them a voice in the decisions that affect their lives and their future. And speaking of burdens, it is the responsibility of legislators to provide quality education to support informed decision-making skills for responsible voting, not just for 16-year-olds, but for all students. It is irresponsible governing to prioritize politics over education. Furthermore, students already have the opportunity to exercise their citizenship in a responsible, respectful, and pedagogical manner through student government in school. But why limit their participation to just the school level? Shouldn't they have a say in the decisions that affect their communities and their state as well? And let's not forget, that children do pay taxes and their part-time jobs or full-time. They should have a say in how their tax dollars are being used. And as for understanding consequences, it's not just children who struggle with that. Plenty of adults make decisions without fully understanding the consequences. That's why it's important to educate voters of all ages.