

Submitter: Mary Chalkiopoulos
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I strongly oppose HJR20 reducing the voting age from 18 to 16. Instead, based on recent studies referred to by the NIH and others, we should consider raising the voting age to 25. The NIH states, "It is well established that the brain undergoes a "rewiring" process that is not complete until approximately 25 years of age."

The average 16-year-old does not have the ability, knowledge, and experience necessary to make sound decisions, in general. That's why it is illegal for them to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes. Because their cerebral cortex is not fully formed, they tend to make decisions based on emotion, not reason. This makes them particularly easy to manipulate and deceive. In addition, they definitely have no place voting on bills that can increase the taxes for others - taxes that the 16-year-olds will not have to pay until they are older.