

Submitter: Randal Rick  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

The opposition seems to be underestimating the intelligence and political awareness of young people. There are 16-year-olds who are more informed and engaged in politics than some adults.

It's not just about giving high school kids the opportunity to influence state government, it's about recognizing that they are affected by the decisions made by that government. They should have a say in who represents them and their interests.

If we're going to talk about qualifications, let's not forget that the current voting age of 18 is arbitrary and not based on any scientific or developmental research. It was simply set by lawmakers in the 1970s.

And while we're on the topic of fraternity hazing and binge drinking, let's not forget that many of those activities are also illegal for young people under 21. So why are we trusting them to make responsible decisions about alcohol, but not about their own government?