

The Oregon voting age was twenty-one (21) until the Vietnam war, when President Nixon lowered the voting age to eighteen (18). As many troops were 18, the law was changed to allow one 18 years-of-age and over to vote; "old enough to fight, old enough to vote." It makes absolutely no sense to let one sixteen (16) years old to vote. I am opposed to House Joint Resolution 20. The Oregon constitution should not be changed, lowering the voting age to 16. Sixteen years-of-age is below the age of consent in Oregon. According to the Oregon Revised Statutes, one who is 16 cannot legally execute a contract or consent to sexual intercourse. If a 16-year-old does not have the capacity to consent, why would our state legislator give them a say in something as important as voting?

This bill is partisan politics, and this must stop. According to a Tuft's University study (link provided below):

- 1) "Just over half of youth (56.4%) choose to affiliate with the Democrats (35.5%) or Republicans (20.9%), and
- 2) In our initial poll data analysis, we noted that the most common and influential source of election information among young people was their families."

Clearly, this is a case of partisan politics, ensuring Democrats will stay in power in perpetuity. Should JR-20 become law, the Democrat base will increase as 16-year-old vote in accordance with their parents. JR-20 should not be enacted.

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/young-peoples-ambivalent-relationship-political-parties>