

Bill HB 3012

Honorable Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazen, Vice Chair Pham and Committee Members,

I Oppose HB3012

There are many things to consider here. Primarily, you must be a US citizen in order to vote.

First of all, I want you to know I had to be 21 years old to vote the first time. I am not oblivious to the youth's desire to vote. There was a war going on in Viet Nam at that time and people were fighting and dying who could not vote for the political leadership that was making the decisions about their lives. The draft was in place that took young men into service automatically. Those issues, over time and debate were why the voting age changed to 18. Voting is not a game. We knew it well.

We appreciate the youth of our country as they get ready to take their place and responsibility to vote. It is a solemn duty. Many of them I know and appreciate their interest and abilities to make decisions. Yet we, as a society don't give them this responsibility until they have been given the responsibility to do ALL that goes with being an adult. We know that you don't magically have the ability to be an adult at 18. You grow into it. So some are more ready at an earlier age, 18 is the age we have chosen that most are ready. I am proud of those who take their voting seriously and do it responsibly.

Influence should not be swayed over this group. I am afraid that if students vote at school, the teachers unions will do everything they can to try to get this group to vote for the union agenda. I have heard that parents put pressure on their children to vote a certain way. Students need to hear the issues and the voice of different people like their parents and opposing views. So debate remains if a person can vote independently.

My concern today is that citizenship status of some voters is an issue. It is not even mentioned in HB3012. **The Oregon and US Constitution require voters to be US citizens. If you register to vote and you are not a US citizen, when you apply to be a US citizen you will be denied because you have broken this law.** Do the students know this? The department of immigration **DOES** check on the voter rolls to see if you are registered and have voted. This requirement could keep the person from becoming a US citizen. Many young people will have to face a lot of peer pressure for not voting if it is assumed that they are a citizen by others. We should allow them time to mature to understand what they are facing is breaking the law. The personal consequences that go with it may be that they cannot become US citizen and have a fine and possibly imprisonment. This can be appealed but is certainly a challenge.

Oregon has faced challenges with non citizens being registered to vote. <https://thefederalist.com/2024/12/19/oregon-elections-director-resigns-months-after-hundreds-of-noncitizens-found-registered-to-vote/>

Thanks for considering this issue.

Thank you,
Janice Dysinger
Americans for Faithful Elections
www.faithfulelections.org