

Submitter: Brian Jensvold

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3012, which would allow 16- and 17-year-olds, who are registered to vote, to participate in school district elections. This bill is an important step in empowering young people to engage in the decisions that directly impact their education and future.

By allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school district elections, this bill recognizes their role as active members of their communities and encourages civic engagement at a younger age. They are already deeply invested in issues that affect their schools, such as curriculum, school safety, and local educational policies, and this bill gives them a meaningful way to participate.

The bill ensures that young voters only cast ballots in their school district, maintaining the integrity of the election process while allowing them to directly influence their educational environment. This targeted approach is a practical and responsible way to increase youth participation in democracy.

I urge you to support House Bill 3012 and give Oregon's youth a stronger voice in shaping their educational future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.