

House Joint Resolution 20

Sponsored by Representatives NGUYEN H, NOSSE, Senator DEMBROW

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution lowering voting age from 18 years of age to 16 years of age.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the right to vote is a fundamental right of citizenship and all citizens should have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process; and

Whereas lowering the voting age to 16 will encourage young people to become more engaged in the political process and will help to build a lifelong habit of voting; and

Whereas lowering the voting age to 16 is consistent with the values of our democracy and will help to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and represented in our government; and

Whereas individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age should have a voice in how a system in which they already participate is run, and are already entitled to drive, pay taxes, be tried as adults in the criminal justice system and work up to 44 hours per week; and

Whereas individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age are affected by many of the laws and policies decided upon by elected officials, yet they are denied the right to vote in elections; and

Whereas lowering the voting age to 16 would allow young people to have a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives and foster a sense of civic responsibility at an earlier age; and

Whereas lowering the voting age to 16 is supported by numerous studies and evidence from countries from around the world that have successfully implemented this policy; and

Whereas the intent of this amendment to the Oregon Constitution is to lower the voting age to 16 for state and local elections in Oregon; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

PARAGRAPH 1. Section 2, Article II of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Qualifications of electors. (1) Every citizen of the United States is entitled to vote in all elections not otherwise provided for by this Constitution if such citizen:

(a) Is *[18]* **16** years of age or older;

(b) Has resided in this state during the six months immediately preceding the election, except that provision may be made by law to permit a person who has resided in this state less than 30 days immediately preceding the election, but who is otherwise qualified under this subsection, to vote in the election for candidates for nomination or election for President or Vice President of the United States or elector of President and Vice President of the United States; and

(c) Is registered not less than 20 calendar days immediately preceding any election in the man-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ner provided by law.

2 (2) Provision may be made by law to require that persons who vote upon questions of levying
3 special taxes or issuing public bonds shall be taxpayers.

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5 **PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the**
6 **people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout**
7 **this state.**

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