

Submitter: Pacific Paravicini
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

Dear representatives:

When we look at the state of the planet, our current discourse, the state of Oregon's social fabric (homelessness, lack of spending on behavioral health, shameful graduation rates) it is undeniable that older folk have not done a good job at all at decision making or steering our economy for sustainability and long term health and prosperity.

Now the costs are going to be borne by a generation that is keenly aware of the unsurmountable challenges its elders have bestowed upon them. With the availability of information through the internet; this is a generation that is highly educated on the problems it faces. It is also very committed to taking action and often have the right type of approach - because they are not bound by our deference to "older" folk or "business leaders" who "know better."

I have a 16 year old daughter and she is certainly capable of reading and understanding bill summaries, learning about candidates, asking pertinent questions or seeking the information to make educated choices. She registered to vote before being concerned about getting a driver's license.

She is not the exception - I have met several youths in the past few years who have demonstrated more understanding and commitment than many folk older than her. That she is being denied the opportunity to have a say in the decisions that are affecting and will determine her future is simply unfair, undemocratic and short sighted.

We need young people to be involved in the decision making that is going to affect their future. The best way to nurture that involvement is by allowing them to be part of the decision making. After all, as I said, older folk have not been wise enough to hand down a livable planet.

I strongly support lowering the voting age to 16.