

Submitter: Larry Smith  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

Young people have played a critical role in shaping our democracy and driving change in our society. They are passionate, informed, and committed to creating a better future for themselves and their communities. By lowering the voting age, you will be sending a powerful message to young people in Oregon that their voices matter, and that they have the power to make a difference.

I have seen firsthand the transformative impact that young people can have on their communities. They bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a sense of urgency to the political arena. By engaging with them early on in their lives, we can help to cultivate a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Lowering the voting age is also a matter of justice and fairness. Sixteen-year-olds are old enough to drive, work, pay taxes, and serve in the military. Yet, they are not allowed to vote and have their say in the democratic process. This is not right, and it sends a message to young people that their voices and opinions do not matter.