

Submitter: Carmen Williford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I understand the concern about immaturity, but let me ask you this: if a 16-year-old can drive a car, pay taxes, and even be tried as an adult in court, and many more, why can't they vote? It seems like you're cherry-picking which responsibilities young people are mature enough to handle. Also, studies have shown that 16-year-olds are perfectly capable of making informed decisions. In fact, many high school students are required to take government and civics classes, which give them a solid foundation for understanding our democracy and how it works. So, I have to wonder if the objection is based on facts or just outdated stereotypes about teenagers. Let's not forget that lowering the voting age to 16 has been successfully implemented in 20 or so countries and 3 US cities, with positive results. So, perhaps instead of dismissing this idea out of hand, we should be open to exploring its potential benefits for Oregon.