

Submitter: Elizabeth Durant
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3206

As a school board director, community member, and concerned parent, I am writing to express my strong support of HB 3206. By voting in school district elections, students will have an opportunity to exercise their rights as citizens in an election that directly impacts their daily life. This will show them the power of democratic participation, and build an important foundation for a lifetime of civic engagement.

I have served on the Parkrose School Board since 2019, and am currently serving as chair. While we have always had student presentations at board meetings, this past year (22-23) we formally added Student Representatives on the board. These four Student Representatives have had a powerful, positive impact on our discussions and decision-making as a board. The students are well-prepared, thoughtful and diligent. They offer insights and ask questions we would never have considered otherwise. We are more connected as a board to the student body, more responsive to student concerns, and more creative and energetic as a board overall. This experience has shown me the power of student voice and participation in school board governance.

To those who are concerned that students aged 16 and 17 lack the maturity to vote, I invite you to attend one of our Parkrose School Board meetings! Our students are more than capable of voting responsibly...not only will they vote, but they will hold us accountable to the promises we make to "put students first." Let's show our students that we mean what we say!

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony,
Elizabeth Durant (she/her)
Parkrose School Board of Education, Director #5