

Anne M. Gallaudet  
Scarborough, Maine

May 2, 2025

Re: LD 1446: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on  
Veterans and Legal Affairs

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne  
Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1446.

I support lowering the voting age for state and local races from 18 years of age or older to 16  
years of age or older; and thus, I support this proposed Constitutional Amendment. I am retired,  
but I have vivid memories of my civics and societal knowledge when I was in high school. I  
know that I was ready to vote at 16 years of age. I wish I had been able to vote at that age, and  
I hope you afford today's 16-and -17-year-olds the opportunity to do so.

I remember discussing politics often with my parents and friends; my favorite class was history.  
I think lowering the age to 16-year-olds is helpful as these voters are ensconced within a familiar  
broad support group with whom they can have trusted conversations about the issues at hand in  
preparing to vote. In contrast, to become a voter for the first time at 18 years of age occurs  
while the young person is also likely to be leaving home for college, the military or jobs and thus  
their circumstances hinder their abilities to rely on the kind of support groups the 16 and 17  
years olds have.

Furthermore, studies have shown that 16 years olds have the maturity to make decisions about  
candidates and issues presented to the voting publics. See, e.g., Laurence Steinberg, "Why We  
Should Lower the Voting Age to 16," nytimes.com, Mar. 2, 2018.

No one should worry that the teenagers will vote in lockstep with their parents or their peers.  
Again, I remember my teenage years and the many issues upon which my parents and I agreed  
and the ones we did not, just like I share some views with my friends, but on other issues I  
differ.

This also is a "rights" issue. Young people should be able to weigh on issues that are impacting  
them now and will for the next 7 or 8 or 9 decades depending on their individual lifespans.  
When I was young, the national voting age was changed from 21 to 18 years old due, in part, to  
my peers being sent to Vietnam. Now young people face school shootings, a turbulent economy  
and a rapidly changing job market (for all sorts of reasons including AI). People worried about  
my generation's 18-year-olds, voting and today it is a nonissue. In fact, lowering the age to vote  
is a way to increase civic awareness. If young people start voting early, they will likely make it a  
lifetime habit. See [https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/lower-voting-age-some-californians-  
election-season](https://edpolicyinca.org/newsroom/lower-voting-age-some-californians-election-season)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1446.

Anne Gallaudet,  
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