

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1446

### RESOLUTION, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 16 YEARS OF AGE

May 2, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am Eileen King, the Deputy Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1446, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age.

While our association fully supports civic engagement in the democratic process, we believe 16 years may be too young of an age for a student to engage in the voting process.

We appreciate the substantial outreach and effort that groups such as the League of Women Voters have undertaken in analyzing this issue and assessing whether the voting age should be altered. In [their report](#), the group examines the research in neuroscience and developmental research to shape their position.

However, as educators with decades of experience, we believe that a 16-year-old may yet have the requisite civic knowledge and maturity to make such a meaningful decision. Many 16-year-olds have not yet learned key aspects of local and U.S. history – information that is crucial to help shape their worldviews.

Instead of taking this step, we would encourage the legislature to look at new ways of boosting civic education for Maine students and expanding support for hands-on education in these fields. In recent years, many students have taken on roles as poll workers, and this type of experiential learning is what should be prioritized – not changing the state's voting age.