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May 2, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
The Honorable Craig Hickman  
The Honorable Laura Supica  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Joint Standing Committee on Veterans  
and Legal Affairs

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

Esteemed legislators:

My name is George Schelling. I live in Orland. I am writing in support of this  
resolution.

I have worked extensively throughout Hancock County to register high school  
students to vote. By my observation and by report of those with whom I have  
worked, students are extremely interested in their futures. According to a Harvard  
study, when students are registered to vote, they vote at rates equal to other  
demographic groups. But, of course, most high school students can't vote. They  
study civics, frequently in 9th or 10th grades, when voting is a truly academic subject:  
most won't be able to exercise their franchise until they are on the cusp of or after  
graduation.

Appropriately, students want to study subjects that are truly relevant. Studying civics  
and learning critical thinking skills at the same time they are facing electoral choices,  
and in the context of a diverse range of other students and teachers where their ideas  
can be developed, explored and challenged would almost certainly develop a more  
informed and involved electorate.

We need their voices in this rapidly changing world. Please vote for this resolution

Respectfully,  
George C. Schelling