

Jonathan Wilcox  
Paris  
LD 1446

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica, and  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Jonathan Wilcox, I live in Paris and I urge you to vote for LD 1446. My testimony is in favor of LD 1446, as a concerned citizen of 65 years, I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1446 as well, for the future viability of Maine, for its citizens and all life herein. The Preamble of the Constitution of our great United States begins with "We the people..." and I believe the current climate of politics of some of those in power are trying to limit our rights. One of them is the right of every citizen to vote. Another related concept is of ignoring part of the population in making decisions, which I am also against. Those under age 18 are one of those groups I feel are being ignored, both by the laws and the effects of decisions past. Let me provide an example. Much misinformation is continually being dumped into our lives, many have stated adding carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane into the atmosphere does not cause climate change. The consensus states otherwise. In fact, since the 1876 report by the American Physical Society, its been known that continuing to put CO<sub>2</sub> into Earth's atmosphere will increase the temperature, yet more CO<sub>2</sub> continues to be put there! Who is going to be affected by this tragic and avoidable action? Our youth and our decedents who are not being listened to now are going to be affected.

There is not enough happening to change this disastrous course of the climate crisis (which is happening before our eyes).

It appears to me that older generations in government are not listening to their needs now and what their needs in the future will be (again, 'their' means those who are 18 and younger).

I believe lowering the voting age to 16 year old's, it not only gives them a say in what will be affecting them, also they are closer to what their younger siblings might be feeling; and just as importantly, I feel lowering the voting age to 16 will cause politicians to become more aware and thoughtful of the next generation and how they craft and administer the laws.

Just as the constitution has become more inclusive over time (thinking of woman's rights, peoples of color rights, and more), it is time to lower the age one can vote to 16. I say this because now younger persons are able to marry, drive, and work and yet they do not get to right to say with a vote what campaign issues matter to them.

I had hoped politicians would become more cognizant of younger peoples lives and needs, and the laws which get passed--be more in line with a longer-term perspective, yet, in my experience of 65 years I do not see politicians becoming more inclusive with younger folks ideas and issues. Some, if not most politicians are becoming more exclusionary.

Therefore, I believe the only way to gain that thoughtfulness of politicians and government as a whole, is to change the constitution of Maine to allow 16 year old's the right to vote in state elections as they will be affected by the of laws and rules that are being passed now, for their lifetime.

This is fundamental to preserving our democracy and representation. It would be a win-win-win for all of us, for the citizens of the state (more of them being heard and politicians would be accountable), the state itself because laws would be better-crafted to include long-term concepts, and for those new to voting as they can participate instead of being 'at the whim' of other's decisions and thereby excluded.

There is a positive correlation that those who participate at a younger age continue to participate throughout their lives, no matter which subject of interest one is discussing, including participating in voting.

Again, I urge you vote 'ought to pass' on LD 1446 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age.

Thank you for your time and attention to important matter,  
Jonathan Wilcox