

Name of Lobbyist

Michigan Center For Intergenerational Civic Equality

Support for HB 6183

- Studies through neuroimaging suggest that human brain development of the prefrontal cortex does not fully occur until the early 20's or later according to the Journal of Adolescent Health (2010). Several NIH studies have noted development not being fully complete until the early-mid 30's in some adults. Voting age should be 35 if this is when human brains are fully developed.
- The executive functioning that is housed in the frontal lobe of the human brain helps us with decision making. What is the baseline for decision-making maturity and who determines that? Should lawmakers be discounting the responsibility of 16 and 17 years when fully developed but uninformed adults often cast ballots for nonsensical reasons?
- Decision-making is not only a skill for 18 and up. There are very competent young people who have influenced and inspired generations across history....Joan of Arc (17), Annie Oakley (16), Alexander The Great (took the throne at 16)...
- Roper vs. Simmons (2005). If a 17-year-old teenager can be tried as an adult and sentenced to death for breaking the law, why can't other law-abiding 17-year-olds weigh in on what those laws should be?
- There are 16-year-olds who work longer hours than 40 years old. If 16-year-olds are paying into Social Security and Medicare, why are they not being given the same legal recognition as the individuals receiving SS and Medicare Benefits from the young person's labor?
- 16-year-olds can marry and be parents
- 16-year-olds are responsible enough to drive. Cars are lethal. Every year, 40,000 people die in crashes (NBC News, Health and Technology, 10/24/21). Isn't driving more dangerous than voting? In both scenarios, drivers are responsible for both their own lives and the lives of countless others.
- During WWII, 17-year-olds could fight and die for the US with their parent's consent.
- Policies written before they were conceived will shape their futures and those of their future families. i.e., NATO agreement was signed April 4, 1949. Defending the sovereign nations of our European allies may be required of 16- and 17-year-olds in 1-2 years. Should they not have the opportunity to participate in forming/reforming our foreign policy if it will inherently cost their generation in lives, higher cost of living, and potential economic losses.
- In 2021, The Alzheimer's Association estimated that a whopping 40% of people aged 65 or older in the USA have associated memory impairment, almost 16 million people. If a primary reason for keeping the voting age at 18 is cognitive development (particularly executive functioning/decision making) then citizens over 65 should be tested every two years for cognitive deficit and have their voting card revoked if they do not meet the cut score for dementia.
- Our current voting laws support reverse ageism. HB 6183 is long overdue.