

EXPANDING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN OUR REPUBLIC

-CREATING A PATHWAY TO EXPAND STUDENT VOTING RIGHTS IN LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS-

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORT

This is a nonpartisan measure that would allow local school districts and school boards the opportunity to grant allowance for students aged 16 and 17 to vote for their representative school district board members.

Bill Background

- A nonpartisan measure to allow students (16/17) **to be able to cast a ballot only for their local school board races.**
- The proposal will create a **pathway** for students to vote in local school board elections.
- This **legislation will not be a blanket approval.**
- This legislation will allow for **local school boards to choose** whether students in their districts can vote in their local board elections.
- This grants **individual districts the right to autonomy and the right of choice in localized decision making.**

Why 16?

- **At 16, you can... register to vote, pay taxes, and drive.**
- **For 2 years, students have no experience of voting**, but the earlier one votes, the more likely that voting becomes a **habitual act**.
- **Currently, students are only allowed to vote for their school board representatives once they have aged out of the schooling system.**

Why School Boards?

- **Voter apathy and disengagement** are still leading factors of why youth **fail to fill ballots.**
- **Local school boards provide the greatest impact on young lives, they decide learning modalities and curriculums, to what time students wake up.**
- Exercising the right to vote is **critical at every level**, there is **no clearer example of impact** than local school boards.
- By **encouraging students to vote in local school board elections**, we raise a **generation of informed voters.**
- Students will see firsthand the **impact of local votes**, and will **continue to vote in local elections** throughout their lifetimes.

Endorsements

- Voterise
- The League of Women Voters
- Salt Lake County Clerk's Office
- Utah County Clerk's Office
- UT Gov. Office of Education
- SLC Council
- Salt Lake DA Sim Gill
- UT Coalition of Student Body Presidents

FACTS AND STATISTICS

In Utah, **only 14%** of students aged 16/17 are pre-registered to vote.



In the 2020 elections, an estimated **30% of voters failed** to complete their full ballots.



When voting and the importance of voting are taught conjunction in high school, students are **40% more likely to vote** and to **continue to vote** throughout their lifetimes.



Utah has one of the **lowest** youth voter turnout rates - in 2018, the turnout was 16% - ranking as one of the **bottom 3 states** in the nation.