

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the WCDCC Platform states “Creating a more equal and sustainable society now, and for generations to come is our highest aspiration”;

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the WCDCC Platform states “We recognize that the inherent dignity and inalienable rights possessed by all members of humanity is the foundation of our shared freedom, of justice and of peace in the world ”;

WHEREAS, Article I of the WCDCC Platform states “Washington County Democrats believe **all persons** have a right to adequate food, secure housing, quality health care, clean air and water, **equal opportunity to vote**”; (bolding added)

WHEREAS, Many 16 and 17-year-olds are politically active and leading fights for various political change;

WHEREAS, Oregon currently allows 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote;

WHEREAS, the minimum voting age is 16 in Austria, Brazil, Scotland, Argentina, and two cities in Maryland;

WHEREAS, the legal working age for many jobs in Oregon is 16 or younger, and therefore many 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds have to pay taxes without representation;

WHEREAS, International studies show that those under 18 cast votes reflecting their views just as well as older voters (Baltimore Sun);

WHEREAS, Studies show conclusively that both voting and not voting are habit-forming, providing a "first vote" opportunity for those more settled in their community is particularly important (Baltimore Sun);

WHEREAS, Youth who are not yet 18 can drive, work, pay taxes, have consensual sex, obtain a federal student loan, earn a pilot's license and join the military; and

WHEREAS, South Salem High School senior Maria Torres said "We need to be able to take our work to the ballot and protect the policies we're working so hard to pass”;

THEREFORE, We the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon, Resolve as follows:

1. The WCDCC endorses SJR 22, which would change Oregon's legal voting age to 16;

2. Passage of SJR 22 and lowering the voting age to 16 shall be added to the Priority Legislative Action Items for the Washington County Democratic Central Committee;
3. The WCDCC calls for its state Representatives and Senators to sponsor and support SJR 22;
4. The WCDCC Chair is directed to speak to or delegate individuals to speak to, each of Washington County's state Representatives and Senators and report back to the Central Committee within two months on those who responded;
5. The Young Democrats Committee, the Community Outreach Committee, and the Resolutions and Platform Committee, are directed to take action on behalf of the WCDCC to support SJR 22 and work to lower the voting age to 16;
6. The Resolutions and Platform Committee Chair is directed to ensure a resolution is introduced to the Democratic Party of Oregon supporting SJR 22 and lowering the voting age to 16, and provide continuing reports to the Central Committee on its progress;
7. The Secretary is directed to send copies of this adopted resolution to the other Democratic central committees in Oregon with the suggestion that they adopt similar resolutions; and
8. A Special Committee, whose members and chair shall be 14 through 17-year olds, shall be appointed by the Chair within two months (with the ability to make additional appointments as the need arises) and the committee's task shall be to take lead on the work to achieve the adoption of SJR 22 and and take action on behalf of the WCDCC to that effect and coordinate the efforts of other committees, officers, and interested persons working for that goal.

*Resolution submitted by Jeremy Likens, R&PC Member – February 29, 2019*

*Resolution amended and Recommended Do Pass by R&PC – March 5, 2019*

Citation <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-voting-age-20130531-story.html>