

Rethinking the vote

2.6% of Americans are 16 or 17. That is 8.85 million people. These people can drive, they can work, but they cannot vote. In today's political climate younger people are a major focus, they are the future of the world, yet they have no say in the decisions being made about them. Teenagers over 16 in America should have the right to vote because of how greatly they are impacted by these laws.

Out of these teenagers, 1 in 3 America have a job. That is 6.36 million people. They make wages as low as 7.25 at these jobs. 7-8% of these paychecks are taken by taxes. As somebody who has a job, last year I lost almost 500\$ to government taxes. If this money is being taken away from me I should be able to have a say about it. It is unfair if those working cannot have any control in their own wages.

Abortion is a pertinent topic in America right now. 6% of teenagers become parents around the age of 16. Many are not financially or mentally ready to become a mom or dad. Teen pregnancy is also a leading cause of poverty and many teens who have children do not pursue a higher education. Less than 2% of teen mothers earn a college degree by 30. They should be able to vote on abortion laws and decide themselves what they would like to do. If they are the ones raising a baby, and potentially losing their future as well as the rest of their teenage years, they should be able to vote on whether they can choose not to.

When you are arrested as a 16 year old you have the chance to be charged as an adult based on the severity of your crimes. The treatment of adults in prisons varies state by state and is something those in state have the chance to vote on. As Americans you have a right to determine how prisoners are treated, especially if the treatment could apply to you. If you have the chance to be tried and punished as an adult, you should also have the chance to vote like one. It is hypocritical to treat teenagers like adults in one situation but like children in another.

This, and so much more, is why we should let those 16 and older vote in local elections to national ones, and allow the voices of younger Americans to be heard.