

The Voting Age Should Not Be Eighteen

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A PERSON eighteen years of age should not be allowed to vote, because he is not capable of voting wisely. A youth knows little about legislative issues; he is easily influenced by others; and as a whole, he does not have a genuine interest in politics.

A person of this age makes few important decisions for himself. He has completed twelve years of education, during which he has had little opportunity to put his leadership ability to work. No person who has not had the chance to make important decisions previously is capable of casting a vote wisely.

At the age of eighteen, a person is not directly affected by the government to any great extent. He does not come directly in contact with the various laws of labor and taxation. A person at the age of twenty-one is affected by some of these governmental actions; however, the eighteen-year-old is not.

At this age, the youth can be influenced easily by his parents or by politicians. He is still under his parents' influence, and he would readily accept their political beliefs without thinking about them himself. A person who does not think for himself can hardly be considered a wise voter.

There are very few teenagers who are interested in politics or who even pay attention to them. What are the differences between the parties? Who are the candidates? Is their party united? These are questions which can be answered only by a minority of the teenagers. Some of them have not even thought about the questions; others do not have their minds made up as to what is the best solution. The minor would jump at the chance to vote, but very few would take the needed time and effort to prepare for voting. This country does not need voters who are making their decisions as they mark the ballots. It needs voters who have their minds made up and are ready to back their decisions with supporting evidence.

A person who is uninterested, easily influenced, inexperienced in making decisions for himself, and uneducated in the subject is hardly the person America needs to solve its voting problems.