

Written Testimony for **HB 52: Election Law - Voting Age - Board of Education Elections (Your School, Your Voice Act)**: Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee Members:

The regular age for being able to vote in elections is 18. Why are we attempting to change this?

Here are a list of things that minors are not able to do until they turn 18:

Vote; Join the Military; Donate Blood and Become an Organ Donor; Work Full Time; Play the Lottery; Obtain Special Driving Permits; Purchase and Use Tobacco Products (in Some States); Drive Late at Night due to State Curfews; Establish a Checking and Savings Account and Apply for Loans; Apply for Credit Cards without a Cosigner; Get Piercings or Tattoos Without Parental Permission; File a Lawsuit; Get Married without Parental Permission; Adopt; Purchase a House and a Vehicle in your name, or Rent a Car in Your Name. (Just to name a few).

There are reasons society has determined that minor children should not be able to do these things until they are 18. Reasons include the child's safety and the fact that minor children do not always make the best decisions and cannot begin to understand the consequences for their actions until they are at least 18. Psychiatrists have found through studies that the human brain is **not fully** developed until the age of 25. This most likely plays a part in the reasoning as to why minor children should not be able to do various things until age 18.

Whatever the reasoning is, it is sound. We obviously cannot let minor children go around doing anything they want at any time they want. It's not safe, and it's not reasonable to expect minor children to fully take care of themselves.

I do not see why the reasoning for allowing a minor child to vote for Board of Education Members should be any different. In order to vote for every other political office, a person must be 18. Minor children are more susceptible to being influenced by others than are adults. Minor children would not put the thought necessary into electing candidates for political office, nor would they put the thought into the consequences of their choices, for exactly the same reasons as they (minor children) are not able to do the list of activities noted above.

Are we going to keep lowering the voting age, just because the political office is a Member of the Board of Education? Are we next going to lower the age to 14,12,10, 8, 6? Are we going to start having Kindergarteners voting for Members of the Board of Education simply because education affects all our children?

This is NOT a reasonable or sound policy and should not be voted into law!! We need to leave the voting age as 18 for ALL political offices!!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in taking my position into account when you VOTE NO on this bill.

Trudy Tibbals
Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident