

Hello my name is Colt Black, as an elected member of the Frederick County Board of Education, I am writing to you today to implore you to find HB0052, unfavorable.

Members of the Board of Education in each county hold more power regarding expenditures that each county makes as the schools generally consume roughly half of the county budget annually, than county council members.

Persons who are under 18 years of age do not have enough world experience to properly understand or participate in elections having consequences that extend beyond the walls of their school which will significantly raise taxes on all citizens.

Persons under 18 who are still in school, will only be looking for “what’s in it for me and my friends” and not what is best for the entire school system and county surrounding.

And where does it stop? Next, someone will craft a bill to allow those under 16 to vote for county council or state delegates because they put funds into the school system.

We must stand with reason and say that if we fundamentally believe that 18 is the age of majority then we need to stick with that. And we’ve been seeing a paradoxical shift toward 21 being the new age of majority as you must be 21 to purchase alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and handguns.

If we can’t trust 18 year olds with alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and handguns, but we currently allow them to vote. Why when 16-year-olds are not permitted any of the above items due to maturity and trust should we allow them to make decisions which will impact all taxpayers, without consequence to the 16-year-old overall?

We Should Not.

We must keep the voting age at 18, period.