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### “Why People Want to Change the 26th Amendment”

Almost everyone looks forward to the day they turn 18. It's a big year for some because that means college, moving out, and by then most people will be driving. It's a year that you get more freedom. Another big thing you can do at that age? Vote. However, there are some who would like to lower the voting age, which as a kid, sounds great! But, there are many overlooked consequences to that, such as absence of political knowledge and lack of adult responsibilities. Although there are multiple cons to this change, some of the pros are that by involving the youth, they will learn more.

To start out, an argument used to promote lowering the voting age to 18 was that if you are old enough to be drafted, then you should be able to vote. This argument was commonly used due to the fact that during this time period, the United States was fighting in the Vietnam War. Another argument for lowering the voting age was 'enfranchisement of the youth shall make them more sensible and more creative' as said by Shaalaa.com. Eventually they got their way and the law was changed, causing the formation of the 26th amendment in 1971. A more simpler version of this could be said as giving the youth more freedom would let them learn more. Recently, some have been pushing for the voting age to be dropped to 16. Those that are against it feel as though this is pushing it.

As for those who do not support this proposal, they counter this by saying that the majority of kids that age have little political knowledge. This could mean that they would likely hear something about a candidate and believe it whether it was true or not. They would not look into the subject to research it, but instead trust misinformation. Another big thing that the younger generation tends to do nowadays is go with the flow. By this I mean that they will vote for or favor the popular candidate simply because that is who everyone else likes.

Moreover, some of the young voters who have not yet moved out have not yet adopted adult responsibilities such as paying bills and taxes, getting groceries, paying insurance, etc. This can mean that they do not understand what the effects of a policy or bill can mean for adults. An example of this could be the infrastructure bill, that while this is being written, is in the works of being passed. It has many things for improving roads, bridges, and other stuff, but there are also some other small, useless details that the people's money is being spent on.

Now let's take a break from the U.S. and look at the voting age in the eastern hemisphere. The minimum age for voting ranges from 16 to 25, with the United Arab Emirates being the only country in the world that has a minimum age of 25. As for the countries who's age is 16, it causes a large controversy because they do not yet own a home or have any adult responsibilities.

To wrap it all up, there are many different opinions about the voting age. There are also a lot of components that go into it such as the youth's political knowledge and adult responsibilities, but also through inclusion, they may learn more. So, what are your thoughts?

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