



SB 412 16 Vote NM

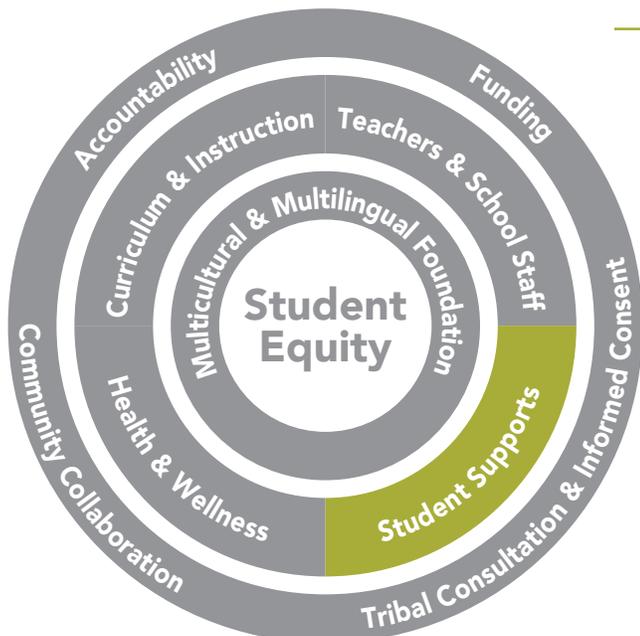
Sponsored by: Senator Carrie Hamblen

In 1971, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18. Given the fact that voting age is an arbitrary construct which has been changed historically, we acknowledge the right of the citizenry to advocate for any age they deem appropriate. Our rationale for lowering the age of a qualified elector to that of 16 years are as follows:

- We believe that extending the electoral franchise to 16 and 17-year-olds is a democratic imperative, as it would address the disparity in voter participation between young and old populations by building a lifelong habit of civic engagement earlier in life.
- Given that the working age is currently set at 16, and therefore such members of the workforce are contributors to the tax-base, we believe that citizens of this age have a right to

determine through the electoral process how their tax dollars are spent. Our Nation was founded under the rallying cry of “no taxation without representation”, we hold this maxim to be just as relevant two centuries later.

- We believe that in a society which is witnessing unprecedented rates of change in social consciousness and technological innovation, that the youth of our society will bring crucial insight in adapting to these changes.
- With an increasing rise of generational inequality in multiple sectors of the economy including income, wealth, home ownership, and professional advancement, we believe that younger members of the electorate will provide a decisive role in addressing the institutional shortcomings that have left them with a lower standard of living than their parents.



Operating under these principles we, the members of the 16voteNM coalition, will strive to engage through the legislative process in the State of New Mexico to lower the voting age to 16-years-old. This will be done through community organizing, citizen lobbying efforts, collective direct action, the proliferation of material both in person and online, and other efforts.

For more information, visit transformeducationnm.org.