NEVADA LEGISLATURE - 54TH SESSION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting Held March 23, 1967

The 29th meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 1:10 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 1967, in Room 50, State Capitol, by the Chairman, Senator James I. Gibson.

All committee members were present except Senators Alleman and Bunker.

Also present: Ed Allison, personal representative of Governor Paul Laxalt

Tom Hallam, Churchill County High School teacher Bill Stark, Churchill County High School student Dave Russell, President, Associated Students, University of Nevada

Hampton Young, Editor of <u>Sagebrush</u>, University of Nevada

Harold L. Kirkpatrick, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Science, and Chairman, Faculty Senate, University of Nevada

David Diedricksen, Junior Men's Senator-at-Large, University of Nevada

Cindy Saddler, Churchill County High School student
Daryl Drake, First Vice President, Associated Students,
Sam M. Basta, Dean of Students, University of Nevada
One other person, who did not participate in the
discussions

Cy Ryan, Newsman

The Chairman stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider

S.J.R. 11: Proposes to amend the Nevada constitution by reducing voting age. Introduced by Senator Young.

The Chairman called on Mr. Ed Allison, personal representative of Governor Paul Laxalt, who introduced the speakers, who spoke in the order, and on the phases of <u>S.J.R. 11</u>, shown on the agenda, a copy of which is <u>attached</u> to these minutes.

All the speakers voiced support of the legislation, except Mr. Drake, who said he was not convinced the voting age should be lowered and felt that if it were, adequate controls should be established on the University and high school campuses to assure that unruly demonstrations do not occur.

Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments Minutes of Meeting Held March 23, 1967 Page 2

The committee expressed its appreciation for the fine presentations made, particularly by the young students who spoke.

The hearing adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson - Chairman

Føderal State & Local Governments Com. mtg. - 3/23/27.

agenda

18-YEAR OLD VOTING

- 1. Ed Allison Position of Governor Paul Laxalt
- 2. Tom Hallam General presentation
- 3. 18-olds seek responsibility to vote

 Bill Stark

 Dave Russell

 Hampton Young
- 4. 18-year olds today are far better informed
 Dr. Harold Kirkpatrick
- 5. 18-year olds would inform themselves
 Dave Diedrickson
- 6. 18-21 year olds are now in a "limbo"period
 Cindy Saddler
- 7. Politics on campus

 Daryl Drake
- 8. Dean Sam Basta General presentation

7. deral, State, + Local Sovernments Com. mg. - 3/23/67.

Name and brief background of participants:

- Hampton Young Editor of Sagebrush University of Nevada
- 9) Sam M. Basta Dean of Students University of Nevada
- Harold L. Kirkpatrick Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Science and chairman of the Faculty Senate
- 8 Daryl Drake ASUN first vice president
 -) Tom Hallam Teacher of United States Government, Churchill County High School
- 2) Bill Stark Student of the Churchill County High School and cochairman of the Committee to Lower the Voting Age to Eighteen
- 7) Cindy Saddler Student of the Churchill County High School and cochairman of the Committee to Lower the Voting Age to Eighteen
- 3) Dave Russell ASUN President
- David Diedricksen Junior Men's Senator-at-Large, University of Nevada

Free tod @ 3/23/67 me tought Fed., St. & Ronal Lower Jung. Cynthia stark,

To the Nevada State Assembly

We, the undersigned, teachers, administrators, and other adult employees of Churchill County High School, after careful consideration do wholeheartedly advocate and support lowering the voting age to 18 in the state of Nevada.

1. Mrs. Treeman Morgan	13. Cearly la
2. S. William Danis	13. Clarty for
2. S. William Cano	14. Jam At get
3. Lear a. Luvis	15. Edward Gre
4. Mrs. Frank McCuskey 5. Jim Logan	16.
5. June Jodan	17.
6. Diek Tooney	18.
7. Henri Marquardt	19.
8. authory E. & lenahis	20.
9. Sum (Delanger)	
10. Isador & Sanche.	•
11. Jac Buzana	
12. I) Pomeror	

hearing on SJR-11 by Mr. Hallam.

1. WHAT METHOD IS USED FOR HOMITEATING A CANDIDATE FOR PRESI-

DENT OF THE UNITED STATES?

145

(A)

2. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FIRST AND STILL BASIC ANTI-TRUST LAW IN THIS COUNTRY?

(A)

3. WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES?

(A)

- 4. THAT IS THE LAST NAME OF THE PREMIER OF SOUTH VIETNAM? (A)
- 5. HOW MANY AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO DATE?

(A).

6. WHAT DID THE MOST RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEAL WITH?

(A)

- HOW MANY SENATORS DOES EACH STATE HAVET (A)
- 8. HOW MANY U.S. REPRESENTATIVES DOES EACH STATE HAVE? (A)
- 9. GIVE THE NAMES OF ALL OF NEVADA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES AND THEIR TITLES?

(A)

(A)

(A)

10. HOW MANY ELECTOR DOES NEVADA HAVE? (A)

(A)

12, DID NEVADA GO REFUELICAN OR DEMOCRATIC IN THE LAST PRESI-DENTIAL ELECTION?

(A)

13. WHO MAY IMPRACE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATESY (A)

14. WHO TRIES THE PRESIDENT, AND WHO PRESIDES OVER THE TRIAL?

(A)

(A)

15. HOW WERE U.S. SENATORS ELECTED PRIOR TO 1913?

16. WHO SUCCEENS TO THE PRESIDENCY UPON THE DEATH OF THE PRESI-DEUT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT? (4)

17. HAT IS THE NAME OF THE PARTIES PRESIDENT OF THE SEMATES

18. YOW MANY CITY COUNCILMEN DOES FALLON HAVE?

19. WHEN ARE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS HELD?

20. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1. National Convention
- 2. Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- 3. 35 years old
- L. Nguyen Cao Ky
- 5. 25
- 6. Presidential Disability
- 7. 2
- 8. Depends on the population, however, each State is assured one representative regardless of population.
- 9. Senator Alan Bible
 Senator Howard Cannon
 Representative Walter Baring
- 10.
- 11. Ho Chi Minh
- 12. Democratic
- 13. House of Representatives
- 14. Senate and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- 15. By the state legislature
- 16. Speaker of the House
- 17. Hubert Humphrey
- 18.
- 19. Every even-numbered years
- 20. Dean Rusk

HARRY LEE WATERFIELD
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
CHAIRMAN

SENATE MEMBERS

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MINORITY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

SHELBY C. KINKEAD MAJORITY WHIP

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY EDWARD T. BREATHITT, Governor

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

FRANKFORT. KENTUCKY 40601

ca, SJR-11

TEL. 223-8303

Sits Halland.

JAMES T. FLEMING

EDWARD D. SUMMERS REVISER OF STATUTES

March 15, 1967

HOUSE MEMBERS

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SPEAKER

MITCHEL B. DENHAM SPEAKER PRO TEM

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MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

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MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

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MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

DON BALL
MINORITY CAUGUS CHAIRMAN

HARRY M. HOE

Mr. Tom Hallan
Churchill County High School
650 South Maine Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406

Askin 1 10 3/23/10/

Dear Mr. Hallan

This letter is in reply to your inquiry, addressed to the Secretary of State, concerning voting by persons below age 21.

The Kentucky General Assembly in its 1954 session voted to submit to the electorate the question of amending Section 145 of the State Constitution to permit voting by 18-year-olds. This step was taken without marked debate. Neither organized opposition nor support was apparent. In November, 1955, the voters ratified the proposed amendment, with no active campaign having been waged concerning the proposal. At present there is no organized effort to raise the voting age.

The 1964 Regular Session of the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 22, relating to age of majority. A copy of the enacted bill is enclosed. The Kentucky Court of Appeals has held the first part of section (1) of this act can apply to existing statutes only where the statutes do not designate age in terms of a precise number of years. [391 SW 2nd 378]. The age of 21 is precisely designated in statutes relating to alcoholic beverage licensing, marriage without parental consent, notaries public, statutory rape, seduction under promise of marriage, change of name, fiduciary and probate appointments, certain child labor practices, formation of a corporation, mental health self-commitment and poll tax.

Mr. Tom Hallan Page 2 March 15, 1967

Since the age for legal purchase of alcoholic beverages has been changed, there is no reason to believe any increase in problems of the 18 to 21 age group could be attributed to lowering the voting age and/or the age of majority for the functions specified in Senate Bill 22.

The use of the secret ballot limits the availability of data concerning the voting habits of the group aged 18 to 21. Such reports as are available indicate that the voting habits of this age group are not very different from those of the rest of the population. Some statistics indicate that a larger percentage of 18 to 21-year-olds vote than do persons in their early twenties. Enclosed you will find a copy of a survey on voting habits of University of Kentucky students, compiled by the Department of Political Science in early 1961. It provides some insight into the voting habits of the 18 to 21-year-olds.

We hope that this will be helpful and that you will call upon us whenever we may be of service.

Sincerely,

JTF/mc

Encl.

CHAPTER 20 (S. B. 20)

AN ACT relating to flags for circuit court rooms.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- (1) The fiscal court of every county shall supply each circuit court room in their respective jurisdiction with a flag of the United States and a flag of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- (2) Each of the flags so supplied shall have a measurement of $4\,1/3'$ x $5\,1/2'$, and shall be affixed to a suitable staff and stand.

Signed March 10, 1964

CHAPTER 21 (S. B. 22)

AN ACT relating to age of majority.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. Persons of the age of eighteen years are of the age of majority for all purposes in this Commonwealth except for the purchase of alcoholic beverages and for purposes of care and treatment of handicapped children for which twenty-one years is the age of majority.

Section 2. KRS 385.010 is amended to read:

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Adult" is a person who has attained the age of eighteen [twenty-one] years;
- (2) "Bank" includes every corporation authorized by law to do a banking business;
- (3) "Broker" is a person lawfully engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others.

The term includes a bank which effects such transactions. The term also includes a person lawfully engaged in buying and selling securities for his own acount, through a broker or otherwise, as a part of a regular business;

- (4) "Court" means the chancery division of the circuit court;
 - (5) "The custodial property" includes:
- (a) All securities and money and life insurance under the supervision of the same custodian for the same minor as a consequence of a gift or gifts made to the minor in a manner prescribed in this chapter;
 - (b) The income from the custodial property; and
- (c) The proceeds, immediate and remote, from the sale, exchange, conversion, investment, reinvestment or other disposition of such securities, money and income;
- (6) "Custodian" is a person so designated in a manner prescribed in this chapter;
- (7) "Guardian" of a minor includes the general guardian, guardian, tutor or curator of his property, estate or person;
- (8) "Issuer" is a person who places or authorizes the placing of his name on a security, other than as a transfer agent, to evidence that it represents a share, participation or other interest in his property or in an enterprise or to evidence his duty or undertaking to perform an obligation evidenced by the security, or who becomes responsible for or in place of any such person;
- (9) "Legal representative" of a person is his executor or the administrator, general guardian, guardian, committee, conservator, tutor or curator of his property or estate;
- (10) "Life insurance" shall be deemed to include only insurance on the life of a minor or a member of the minor's family as herein defined;
- (11) "Member" of a "minor's family" means any of the minor's parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, whether of the whole blood or the half blood, or by or through legal adoption;

- (12) "Minor" is a person who has not attained the age of eighteen [twenty-one] years;
- (13) "Security" includes any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease, collateral trust certificate, transferable share, voting trust certificate, or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a security, or any certificate of interest or participation in any temporary or interim certificate, receipt or certificate of deposit for, or any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing. The term does not include a security of which the donor is the issuer. A security is in "registered form" when it specifies a person entitled to it or to the rights it evidences and its transfer may be registered upon books maintained for that purpose by or on behalf of the issuer;
- (14) "Transfer agent" is a person who acts as authenticating trustee, transfer agent, registrar or other agent for an issuer in the registration of transfers of its securities or in the issue of new securities or in the cancellation of surrendered securities; and
- (15) "Trust company" includes every corporation authorized to do a trust business.

Section 3. KRS 389.010(1) is amended to read:

(1) The real property or any right, title or interest in real property of a person under the age of eighteen [twenty-one] years, or of a person of unsound mind, whether such person be a resident or a non-resident of this state, may be sold under or by decree of a court of equity of the county in which the property or any part thereof is situated for any purpose deemed by the chancellor to be necessary or proper or beneficial to such person under disability.

Section 4. KRS 394.020 is amended to read:

Any person of sound mind and eighteen [twenty-one] years of age or over may by will dispose of any estate, right, or interest in real or personal estate that he may be entitled to at his death, which would otherwise descend to his heirs or pass to his personal

representatives, even thou execution of his will.

Section 5. KRS 394.0

No person under eight make any will, except in person to that effect, and except eighteen [twenty-one] yeardian for his child.

Section 6. KR\$ 405.39

An adult person over a may be adopted in the same adoption of a child and with consent alone to such adopt

Section 7. This Act be

CH.

AN ACT relating to construction ment of highways:

Be it enacted by the Gen of Kentucky:

Section 1. A new section is created to read as follows:

- (1) The Department of construction or reconstruction department instead of through of the commissioner as express following conditions is found to
- (a) Emergency constru necessary by the fact that a

representatives, even though he becomes so entitled after the execution of his will.

Section 5. KRS 394.030 is amended to read:

No person under eighteen [twenty-one] years of age can make any will, except in pursuance of a power specially given to that effect, and except also, that a father, though under eighteen [twenty-one] years of age, may by will appoint a guardian for his child.

Section 6. KRS 405.390 is amended to read:

An adult person over *eighteen* [twenty-one] years of age may be adopted in the same manner as provided by law for the adoption of a child and with the same legal effect, except that his consent alone to such adoption shall be required.

Section 7. This Act becomes effective January 1, 1965.

Signed March 10, 1964

CHAPTER 22 (S. B. 57)

AN ACT relating to construction work which may be done by the Department of highways:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- Section 1. A new section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes is created to read as follows:
- (1) The Department of Highways may cause any road construction or reconstruction to be done by employees of the department instead of through contractors when, in the opinion of the commissioner as expressed in an official order, any of the following conditions is found to exist:
- (a) Emergency construction or reconstruction is made pecessary by the fact that a road has been rendered unusable

65.K22 U859



Volume 1

Lexington, February, 1961

COMMISSION Wilmhof B

Voting Behavior Of Kentucky College Students

The question of lowering the voting age to eighteen is increasingly being debated in state legislatures and has appeared on the ballot recently in several states. Kentucky and Georgia have already established an eighteenyear-old requirement while Alaska and Hawaii set the requirement at nineteen and twenty, respectively. One argument for lowering the voting age has been to stimulate interest in politics among young people at a time when many of those attending college are getting their first introduction to the science of government. A study of voting habits among students at the University of Kentucky should provide a valuable test of this theory, though it must be recognized that the full effects of lowering the voting age, a step Kentucky took in 1956, may not be felt for many years. A study of student voting behavior is also useful in contributing to the gradual development of general knowledge about voting behavior in this country, a subject of vast proportions only partially explored to date.

After the 1960 election a poll was conducted among 393 Kentucky students who were eighteen or older in introductory political science and sociology classes at the University of Kentucky. A similar poll had been conducted after the 1959 general election among 292 introductory political science students at the University. An earlier poll covering the 1956 and the 1957 elections and taken in 1957 by two graduate students, Erwina E. Godfrey and James A. Graves, included all students eighteen to twenty-one at the University who returned questionnaires and students in this age bracket at certain other colleges and high schools. Certain comparisons can be made with the 1957 poll as it applied to University students.

There can not be any assumption that those college students who were polled have voting habits typical of other persons in the same age group. The sample who were polled may not be typical of the whole University. Those in introductory political science classes may have more interest in government than the average student, but this factor may be balanced by a disproportionate number of freshmen and sophomores. While not per-

fect, the sample seems adequate to measure the effect of permitting persons to vote when they are of college age.

Voting and Registration Level

According to the 1960 poll, 80% of the students voted in the general election, compared to 59% of persons eighteen or over in the whole state. The previous poll indicated that 84% had voted in 1956, though problems in constructing that poll probably produced too high a figure; the statewide figure in 1956 was 57%. A comparison with other years indicates a much lower level of voting by college students eighteen or over in nonpresidential elections. In 1959 the governor, other state officials, and legislators were elected. The two most recent polls showed that 41% and 43% voted in the November, 1959 election, compared to a statewide average of 45%. In 1957, when state legislative and local elections were held, the student poll of that year indicated a vote of 47%, slightly above the statewide total of 42%. In 1958, when there were only a few congressional races and no senatorial contests, both the student and statewide totals dropped, but the 1959 poll did not provide enough answers to estimate the percentage of students voting.

It is difficult to compare student voting in primaries with that for the state, because a high proportion of University students are Democrats, and the Democratic primary draws more voters than the Republican one. Two polls indicated that in 1959, when there was intense interest in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, 36% and 45% of students voted, compared to 33% for the entire state. In the 1960 primary, when interest was low and contests few, only 19% of the students voted, compared with 13% statewide.

It is evident that student voting fluctuates more than that of the average citizen. The students are farther removed from local issues and presumably less likely to take the trouble to vote (often by absentee ballot) unless some issue or candidate arouses strong interest. The presidential election, on the other hand, creates a

trigher level of voting among students than among others in the state.

A further factor influencing the voting level is the time of registration. Many students who have turned eighteen do not register as a matter of course but wait until some election occurs that arouses their interest. The 1959 and 1960 polls measured the proportion of those who registered the first year that they were old enough to vote. Of those who became eighteen during the year prior to the November 1960 election, 85% registered that year. The comparable figures based on both polls are 72% before the 1959 election, 38% before the 1958 election, and 44% before the 1957 election. In 1956, when the new age requirement made a larger age group eligible at one time, 63% of these registered.

In comparing student voting with that for the whole state, it must be kept in mind that nationwide studies have shown consistently that persons in their twenties vote less frequently than those in middle age groups. often by margins of 10% to 20%. This is somewhat balanced by the fact that many students come from families belonging to income groups that vote more often than average. Another factor is that these polls have shown slightly over half of the students voting by absentee ballot. The student wishing to vote must be at home when registration offices are open, remember to register, remember to apply for an absentee ballot on time, and have his application and ballot notarized. In view of these requirements, the fact that the proportion of students voting in most elections is close to the state average and far exceeds it in presidential elections suggests that the eighteen-ver-old voting law has stimulated greater voting among college students than would have occurred if their first vote had been delayed until the age of twenty-one.

In one respect, University students show much greater interest in voting than do other citizens. Of those students who went to the polls, 97% voted on the constitutional convention (86% for and 11% against) while 94% of them voted on the road bond issue (78% for and 16% against). In the state as a whole only 59% voted on the convention and 61% on the bond issue. In 1959, 83% voted on the veterans bonus and 78% voted on the sheriff's tenure amendment (compared to figures of 71% and 55% respectively in the state).

Support for Parties and Candidates

Of the students who were registered voters, in all three polls 97% of them had registered as Democrats or Republicans rather than independents. The proportions in 1960 were 69% Democratic and 28% Republican; in 1959 the Democratic registration lead was somewhat greater. In the 1959 poll, when students were asked to explain the reasons for their party affiliation, 43% listed family tradition or influence and 27% (mostly Democrats) mentioned the desire to vote in the primary that was more important in the state or their locality. Only 25% mentioned approval of the party's

policies or candidates or identification of the party with . some particular group (such as labor or business).

Family influence was evident in the votes cast by students in the 1960 presidential race. About two-thirds of the students knew how their parents had voted and knew that both parents had voted for the same candidate. Of those, 86% voted for the same candidate as their parents. This helps to explain the fact that, although 68% of those voting were Democrats, only 55% of the Democrats and only 42% of all those voting selected Kennedy. Both among students and their families, there are a significant number of presidential Republicans registered as Democrats. The Republican senatorial candidate won 86% of the vote, indicating more split-ticket voting among students than was true in the whole state.

The reasons for a person's vote are often too complex to be described accurately in a brief answer to a questionnaire, but the answers may provide some clues to voting motivations. Of the 131 students voting for Kennedy (some of whom gave more than one reason), 25 said they always supported Democratic candidates, 49 expressed a general preference for Kennedy as an individual, and 20 gave general approval of the platform. There were 23 who endorsed Kennedy's ideas on foreign policy while only 10 mentioned such domestic issues as farm policy, aid to education, and depressed areas. There were 14 critical of the Eisenhower Administration, and only 8 critical of Nixon.

Of the 181 voting for Nixon, 96 endorsed him personally and often mentioned his experience and maturity, 8 mentioned approval of the Eisenhower Administration, 25 generally endorsed the platform, and 13 voiced approval of Henry Cabot Lodge. There were 38 who mentioned Nixon's ideas or experience in foreign policy, 15 who preferred him as more conservative, and few other references to specific issues. Eleven were generally critical of Kennedy, 19 said he was too liberal or "socialistic", 9 criticized his foreign policy, and 18 said they opposed him because of his religion. The only significant differences between Democrats and Republicans voting for Nixon were that Democrats stressed foreign

REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT

MALCOLM E. JEWELL Editor

E. G. TRIMBLE Chairman, Dept. of Political Science

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policy much more and Republicans stressed domestic issues or the platform in general more than Democrats did.

The 1960 poll showed that 36% of the students heard three or four of the televised Nixon-Kennedy debates, 47% heard one or two of them, and only 17% heard none of them. About the same proportion as heard some of the debates also heard the candidates (usually both) on some other occasion. Almost half of the students said they had been influenced in some way by the campaign, and most of these mentioned the televised debates specifically, but very few said the debates had made them shift from one candidate to the other. A slightly higher proportion of Kennedy voters than of Nixon voters heard the debates; the proportion of registered non-voters who heard the debates was much smaller.

Summary

These polls indicate that, despite various obstacles to absentee voting, college students usually vote in about the same proportions as other persons. The 1960 elec-

tion aroused considerably greater interest among them than was typical in the state; a large proportion of the students heard some of the debates that highlighted the campaign, and an unusually high percentage voted. Student voting and registration fluctuated greatly depending on the importance of elections. Students paid particular attention to issues on the ballot, less important ones as well as a question like the constitutional convention, in which the University was deeply interested. Both in allegiance to parties and to candidates, the students strongly reflected the influence of their families. In their presidential voting the students were more concerned with candidates than platforms and showed few deep attachments to either party. Their concern with policy was focused on foreign affairs and primarily on the abilities of the two men to handle these problems. The final conclusion is one that must be common to all studies on voting behavior: much still remains to be learned about the reasons why students vote as they do. - MALCOLM E. JEWELL, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Kentucky.

Lubrutted (a) 3/23/67 +00.,01. 4 Local Govohearing on SJR-11 by Mr. Hallam.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

IOLANI PALACE
HONOLULU

THOMAS P. GILL

March 14, 1967

Mr. Tom Hallam Churchill County High School 650 South Main Street Fallon, Nevada 89406

Dear Mr. Hallam:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 1967, in reference to lowering the voting age to 18.

Presently our law states that only those who are 20 and older may vote. This also allows admittance to bars and to the purchase of hard liquor and beer.

However, there are several bills now before our state House & Senate which propose the lowering of the voting age to 18.

Enclosed are H.B. 151, 106, 5; S.B. 356 and 370 which pertain to this matter.

According to statistics received from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Identification, there has been an increase of 10.6% in offenses committed by juveniles in the City and County of Honolulu over a period of one year, 1964-65. Of this, the 18 year olds committed 531 offenses, both major and lesser in nature. The 19 year olds committed 468 offenses in the same categories.

The rise in the number of offenses has grown over the last few years.

Sincerely

KIMIE MATSUI

Research Assistant

Kimie Matsur

KM:cg

Encls.

FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 196.. 7 STATE OF HAWAII

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION I, OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, TO LOWER AGE REQUIREMENT FOR VOTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment 1
- 2 to Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
- to loggr the age requirement for voting from twenty years to eighteen 3
- 4 years.
- SECTION 2. Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the 5
- State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows: 6
- 7 "Section 1. Every citizen of the United States, who shall
- have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of
- 9 this State not less than one year next preceding the election and
- 10 be a voter registered in accordance with law, shall be qualified
- 11 to vote in any state or local election. No person shall be qualified
- 12 to vote unless he is also able, except for physical disability, to
- 13 speak, read and write the English or Hawaiian language."
- 14 SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect upon compliance
- 15 with Article XV, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of
- 16 Hawaii.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 1, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to lower the age qualification for voting from twenty to eighteen.

SECTION 2. Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 1. Every citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of this State not less than one year next preceding the election and be a voter registered in accordance with law, shall be qualified to vote in any state or local election. No person shall be qualified to vote unless he is also able, except for physical disability, to speak, read and write the English or Hawaiian language."

SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect upon compliance with Article XV, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

INTRODUCED BY: Sever K

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Jack 11 Aun Budolph Dacar

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Page 2

Memory Janguski

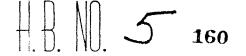
Bany A. Men

H.B. NO. 106

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REB 1 5 1967

FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 196......
STATE OF HAWA!!



A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 1, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to lower the age qualification for voting from twenty years of age to eighteen years of age. SECTION 2. Article II, section 1, of the Constitution 5 of the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows: "Section 1. Every citizen of the United 7 States, who shall have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of this State not less than one year next 10 preceding the election and be a voter 11 registered in accordance with law, shall 12 be qualified to vote in any state or local 13 election. No person shall be qualified to 14 vote unless he is also able, except for 15 physical disability, to speak, read and write the English or Hawaiian language." 17

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1	SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect upon compliance
2	with Article XV, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of
3	Hawaii.
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PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 11, UECTION 1, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CHANGE THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR VOTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII.

The first sentence of section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii is hereby amended to read as follows:

Tivery citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of this State not less than one year next preceding the election and be a voter registered in accordance with law, shall be qualified to vote in any state or local election."

SECTION 2. The foregoing amendment shall take effect upon its adoption in the manner provided by section 3 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

INTRODUCED BY:

2/28/67

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING FROM TWENTY YEARS TO EIGHTEEN YEARS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to Article II, section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to reduce the age qualification for voting from twenty years to eighteen years.

SECTION 2. Article II, section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Every citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of this State not less than one year next preceding the election and be a voter registered in accordance with law, shall be qualified to vote in any state or local election. No person shall be qualified to vote unless he is also able, except for physical disability, to speak, read and write the English or Hawaiian language."

SECTION 3. The foregoing amendment shall take effect upon compliance with the provisions of Article XV, section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

INTRODUCED BY

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Editorial . . .

Youth's Suffrage

hearing in SJR-11 by Hampton Joung, Ung h bo much Edutor.

In 1966, Americans aged 25 and under nearly outnumbered their elders, and by 1970, 100 million persons will be in the same age bracket, according to *Time Magazine*. "Never have the young or assertive or so articulate, so well educated or so worldly," the magazine asserts.

But unfortunately, some 12 million youths between the ages of 18 and 21 are being left out of the national picture, politically. This group is, for the most part, unable to choose its legislative representatives. Although they are a substantial number of the aged 25 and under group, which will soon be a national majority, they are not allowed to vote.

However, we urge the initiation of an 18-year-old voting law in Nevada. And our urging is backed by Nevada Gov. Paul Laxalt, various national and state leaders, and the country in general.

Our reasons for a younger vote are varied. Basically, we feel today's youth is more advanced, knowledgeable and aware of the contemporary political scene than were the teenagers of a few generations ago.

Television is one reason for the new awareness. "Due in great part to the advance of our communications systems, the 18-year-old person of today is far more conversant with his government and world affairs than was his grandfather

at age 21, or even age 25," California Congressman J. Arthur Younger said recently.

Advanced education is another consideration. Today, nearly 40 percent of our country's young go on to higher education, compared to 17 per cent in 1940 (comments *Time*). And, "On the basis of civics courses, social studies courses, they (18-year-olds) have in many cases developed a real interest in their government," Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin said recently.

In addition, youth is becoming physically active in politics. "The combined membership of the Young Democrats and the Young Republicans is over a million to say nothing of dozens of other youth oriented political groups," Moderator Magazine says.

Among other public leaders, New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy favors responsible youngsters. "I personally favor lowering the voting age to 18. I am confident that the granting of this privilege would generate a mature response," he wrote recently. Some others who favor such a move are: President Lyndon B. Johnson, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, former Vice President Richard Nixon and former Senator Barry Goldwater.

Further, concerning 18-year-old suffrage, of 28 governors polled by Moderator, 21 voted for, three against and four were undecided. In the U.S. Senate 41 were for, five against and five uncommitted. And 125 representatives affirmed, 18 turned thumbs down and 13 couldn't decide, pro or con in the House.

Adding more weight is 57 per cent of the entire nation, which, according to a 1965 Gallup

Poll, would back granting 18-year-olds an opportunity to view a voting booth from the inside every election.

However, bestowing balloting rights to our youth has hit snags recently and in the past. Only four states, Georgia (18-year-old minimum voting age), Kentucky (also 18), Alaska (age 19) and Hawaii (age 20) have done it. Michigan, last Nov. 8, defeated a lower age referendum at the polls. And in 1954, an 18-year-old vote constitutional amendment passed the House of Representatives, but was defeated by five votes in the U.S. Senate. Grounds for the narrow defeat was states' rights.

Hopefully, this won't happen in Nevada, where Gov. Laxalt has recently requested a constitutional amendment dropping the suffrage bracket from 21 to 18. "Their (youth's) willingness to accept civic responsibility should be rewarded with the privilege of voting. So should their willingness to accept the sacrifices our country has called on them to make on its battlefields since our founding days. I believe firmly that young Americans are ready, at 18, to assume the role of voting citizens," he said in his 1967 Governor's Report to a Jan. 18 joint session of the legislature.

The youth of Nevada are as knowledgeable and aware as the rest of the nation's youngsters. In an effort to assist the passing of Gov. Laxalt's proposal, we urge you to write, telephone or corner your legislative representative on a street corner and tell him you want our youth to assert themselves and exercise a new and deserved responsibility.

We owe it to our state. We as it it to star growing and progressive, along with its roung.

hearing on SJR-11 by Bill Stark Churchill High School.

To: THE HONORABLE SENATOR CARL DODGE

(Signers are series students)

WHEREAS, The legal voting age of 21 is merely an arbitrary age that has no real bearing on the mental, physical, or political ability to make an intelligent decision; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada requires that one year of U.S. Government be taken, usually in the senior year of high school; thereby, greatly informing and encouraging young adults into political activity and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Since the privilege and honor to serve ones country is granted to young adults under the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, The great majority of young people under the age of 21 have to pay both State and local taxes; be it

Resolved that we the "undersigned" do respectfully request that you actively support the lowering of the legal voting age for young adults to 18 in the State of Nevada.

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Lubmitted at 3/23/67 7ed. St. & Local Love. Learing on SJR-11 by Bill Stark, Churchilf High School, THE HONORABLE ASSEMBLIMAN VIROIL GETTO (Ligners use senior students.) TO: THE HONORABLE ASSEMBLIMAN VIRGIL GETTO

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