

To The Cambridge City Council:

Hi; my name is Vladimir Skaletsky, and I am a freshman at the University of Maine, although my official place of residence is Milton, MA. I recently became aware of the proposal that would allow 16- and 17-year olds to vote in the City Council and School Committee elections, and I would like to declare my full support. Many adults disagree on this, but as a teen I can say that members of my age group DO care about, and are aware of, political issues. Those who oppose this proposal say that teens like myself "don't know what they are doing." I disagree - not only do we know about political issues, but we also care about them; unfortunately, the false concept of teen immaturity is so deeply ingrained in the American culture that our voices are rarely acknowledged. If given the chance to vote, we will use that right responsibly; those who do choose to behave irresponsibly do so because they do NOT have control over their lives. Teens always respond positively and constructively when greater freedom (and therefore greater responsibility) is given to them, and I hope that you feel the same way. Please, don't buy into any stereotypes concerning teenagers; by taking us seriously, you can set an example for the rest of the country.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Age 17
Vladimir Skaletsky Jr.

S - 4453
Consent Communication #16

A communication was received
from Vladimir Skaletsky, Jr.
transmitting his support of
lowering the voting age in City
Council and School Committee
elections.

In City Council December 4, 2000

*Referred
to Petition*