

STATE SENATOR • MICKEY SWITALSKI • 10TH DISTRICT

# Switalski Press Release



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## **Switalski Amendment to Allow 16-Year Olds the Right to Vote**

*Students to be able to exercise their democratic rights in school board elections*

LANSING- State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) introduced legislation today that would allow 16-year old students to vote in local school board elections.

“What better way to have students learn about democracy and government than to allow them to directly participate in its most important element, that of voting,” said Switalski. “School boards vote on district-wide policies that affect the entire student body. This constitutional amendment allows students the opportunity to provide input to decision-makers and will help to build a solid foundation for our youth to continuously participate in the democratic process in the future.”

Senate Joint Resolution N would lower the voting age to 16 for local school board elections only. Students would not be able to vote in school bond or school millage elections.

“Voter turnout in local school board elections are embarrassingly low,” said Switalski. “Yet, these elections have a significant impact on the community. Students have a vested interest in having their views taken under consideration when school districts create and implement policies that directly affect them. I believe that our youth are capable of making well-informed and responsible electoral choices while allowing them to be actively involved in their local community.”

Senate Joint Resolution N would require a two-thirds majority of the Michigan Legislature in order to be placed for on the November ballot for a vote.

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