



Extend the voting age
E whakaheke te tau pōti

About Us

- We are a youth-led, non-partisan campaign aiming to uplift and strengthen youth voice by extending the voting age to 16.
- Make It 16 began in 2019, during Youth Parliament, where all parties agreed that the voting age should be extended.
- We have now become a nation-wide group of people passionate about making it 16.

Our Legal Case

- Preventing 16 and 17 year-olds from voting is unjustified age discrimination in breach of the New Zealand Bill of Rights
- Section 19 - age discrimination for those over 16
- Section 5 - justified limits
- Discretion - a human rights issue

Our Legal Case



How the case has helped us



NEW ZEALAND

Make it 16: Youth activists say excluding teens from voting breaches human rights

Supreme Court hearing minimum voting age case

Wellington higher courts reporter · 08:56, Jul 12 2022



6, 2022 04:30 PM

4 minutes to read



16 group members gather outside the Supreme Court of New Zealand this morning. Photo /

Osborne

A youth-led group, Make it 16, hopes the Supreme Court helps chip away at the voting age of 18. (File photo)

- Increased our publicity/media
- Improved our credibility
- Increased petition signatures
- Created better discussion
- Pressured politicians
- Electoral Review and members bill

How the case has helped us



POLITICS / LAW

NEWSHUB NATION

The government is launching a review of the country's electoral system including voting age, the three party funding and the "coat-tail"

Green MP Golriz Ghahraman calls for voting age to be lowered to 16

21/05/2022



The review would look at:

- **Voting age!**
- Overseas voting
- Funding of political parties
- Length of Parliamentary term
- Electoral Commission recommendations on MMP



Watch: Green MP Golriz Ghahraman calls for the voting age to be lowered to 16. Credits: Images - Newshub, Getty Images; Video - Newshub.

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Our Key Arguments

- Voting is a fundamental right.
- At 16 you can drive, work full time and already have big responsibilities and make big life decisions. Letting 16 year olds vote on politicians to represent their interests in parliament isn't that different.
- Age doesn't determine your intelligence or political knowledge. A person's right to vote is not contingent on their level of education or life experience.

Our Key Arguments

- There shouldn't be taxation without representation. Many 16 and 17 year-olds work and pay tax yet have no say on where that money goes.
- Decisions that the govt make today will undoubtedly affect youth futures the most.
- Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to vote would allow for more people's voices to be represented in Parliament, creating a stronger democracy, and creating better youth policy.

