



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: April 22, 2015

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 15-118 on voting eligibility of 16 year-olds

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I am vetoing County Board File No. pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on March 26, 2015 requesting a change in State law to permit persons aged 16 or older to vote in school board elections and preregister to vote before reaching 18 years of age.

I support the goal of increasing civic engagement, specifically amongst our youth. However, I believe it is inappropriate for one *local* government to propose a change to the way another *local* government is elected, particularly when there no formal relationship or authority between the two. A more effective and appropriate avenue would be to work with our colleagues on school boards and administrations to create programs in schools and neighborhoods that will encourage engagement and voting, such as registering high school students or promoting civics courses.

I urge the Board to sustain this veto and work on this worthy cause in a more effective and suitable way.