



South Australian Debating Association Inc

Junior B, Round Five

That people under 35 should have more votes than older voters

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative debate. This means that the Affirmative should propose a 'model' (a policy on how this idea would be implemented). This model should be clearly described to outline what changes the Affirmative team will make to the status quo, and how these changes will be enacted. The Negative team can either support the status quo or propose a counter-model. This counter-model must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model the Affirmative team is suggesting. The Negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a counter-model.

Both sides should take the approach that this is a policy to come into effect into Australia. Consider what challenges this will alleviate or create. Use logical reasoning to discuss how this policy could come into effect, who it will effect and how this kind of policy can be evaluated as effective or destructive to the current system.

2. Background / Context

The prospect of enacting a policy where a certain societal demographic is exclusively granted greater voting rights is the subject of controversial debate, worldwide. While the basic concept of inequitable voting rights rivals the pillars of democracy, the evolving state of our global spread of population with respect to younger age demographics, (especially in central business locations) makes this a worthy topic for debate.

For instance, India recently held its general election. This is the world's largest democratic exercise, costing approximately \$16 billion USD, taking 45 days to set up polling stations across the regional areas. It is also important to note that the median age in India is 28 years, with the majority of people living in city centres.

This debate addresses the imbalance in current representation and demographic shifts, raising concerns about intergenerational fairness in policy alignment with the needs of younger generations. Advocates argue such a policy change could better ensure future interests are prioritized for our workforce and next generation.

In preparation of this debate, consider how this kind of policy would challenge key democratic virtues, such as equality and fairness, the experience and wisdom of all demographics and the challenges a country would face in implementing such a system.

3. Questions for Consideration

1. Should voting power be based on age demographics to better reflect future interests?
2. How would giving more votes to younger people impact policy priorities?
3. Is there a fair way to differentiate voting power based on age without discriminating against older voters?
4. What are the potential benefits of aligning voting power with demographic shifts?
5. How might this proposal address concerns about intergenerational equity in democratic representation?
6. What criteria should determine the allocation of voting power between age groups?
7. Could such a policy change improve political engagement and voter turnout among younger demographics?
8. What are the potential drawbacks or challenges of implementing such a voting system?
9. How could this proposal affect the stability and effectiveness of democratic governance?
10. What historical precedents or international examples can inform our understanding of age-based voting policies?

© The South Australian Debating Association, Inc. 2023 This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the South Australian Debating Association, Inc. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the President, The South Australian Debating Association, Inc., GPO Box 906, Adelaide, SA 5001.