

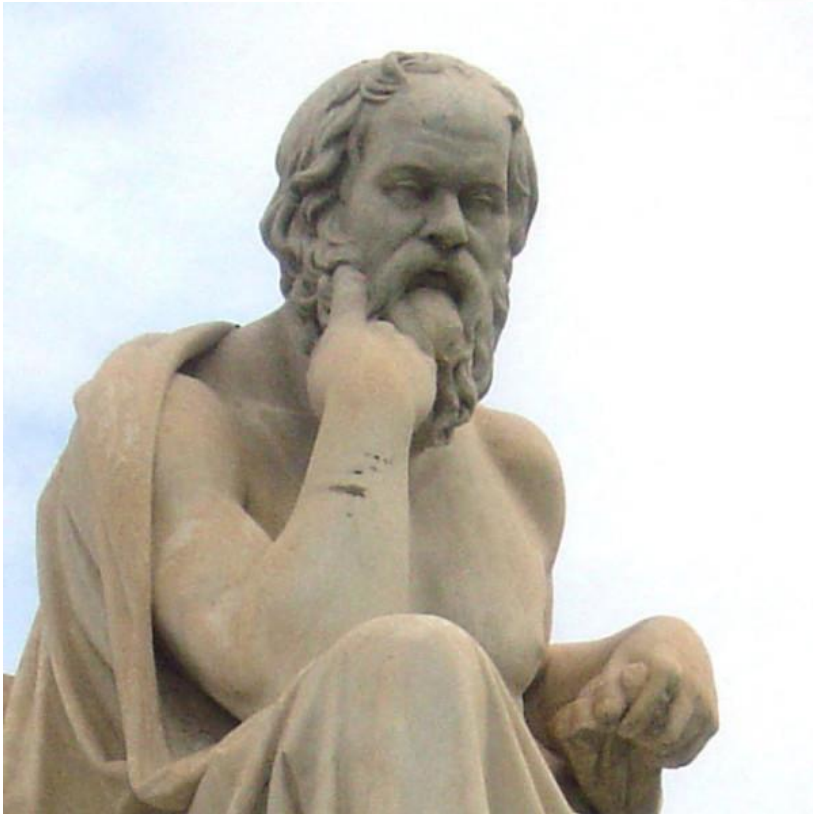
Children's Voice Association

Lasten Ääni Ry

Founded: November 20, 2016

www.childrensvoiceassociation.org

What is "DEMOCRACY"?



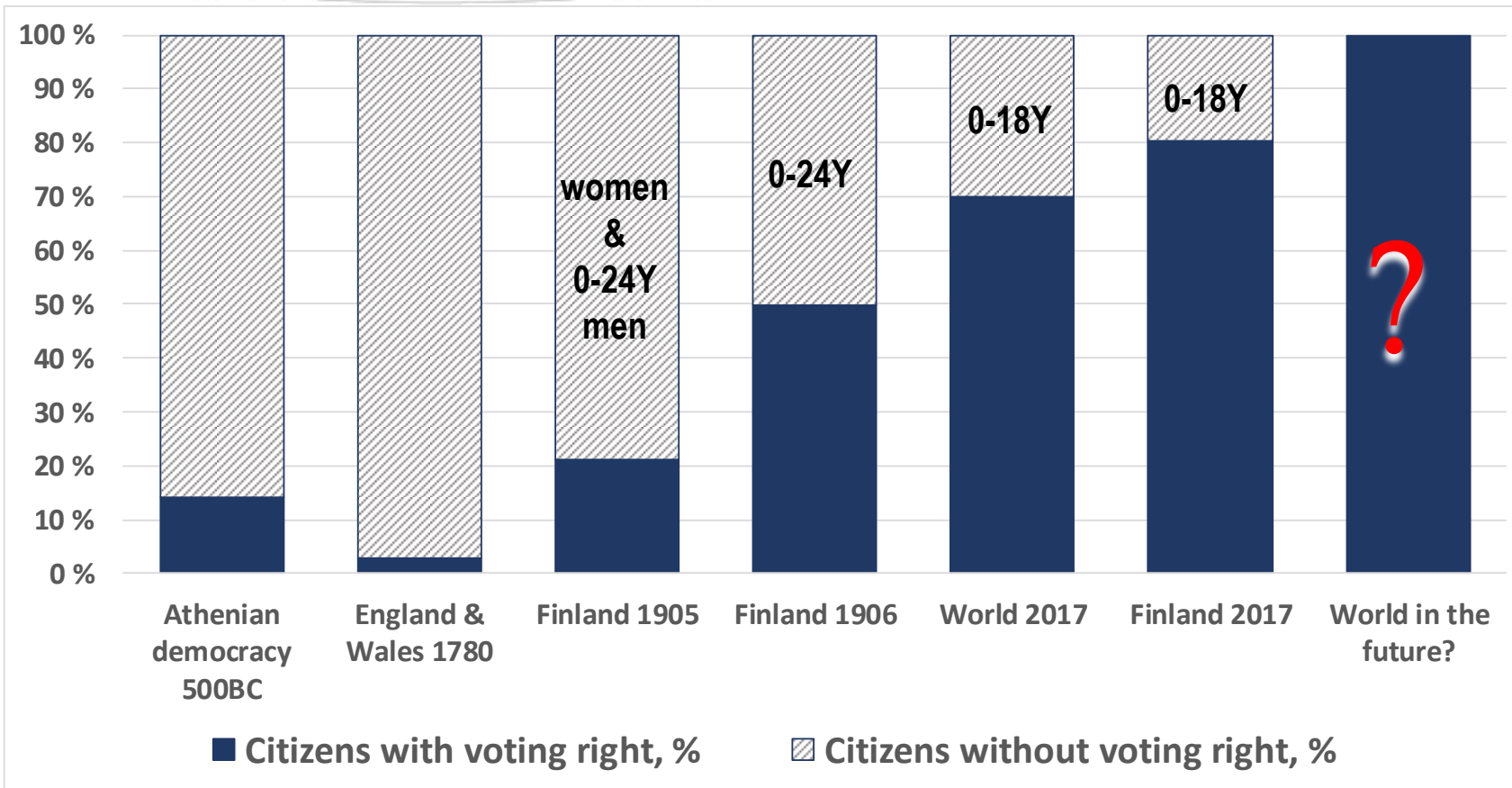
TODAY:

DEMOCRACY = INCLUSIVENESS
in decision-making

PAST:

- Partly-inclusive democracies
- Sokrates opposed democracy: he believed that only specialized, highly educated people were worthy to vote

Democratic inclusion history



Sources: Wikipedia, nationalarchives.gov.uk and Statistics Finland - data as of end-2016 and 1905, own calculations

Children's Voice Association

Lasten Ääni ry

Registered on the Universal Childrens' Day: 20th November 2016

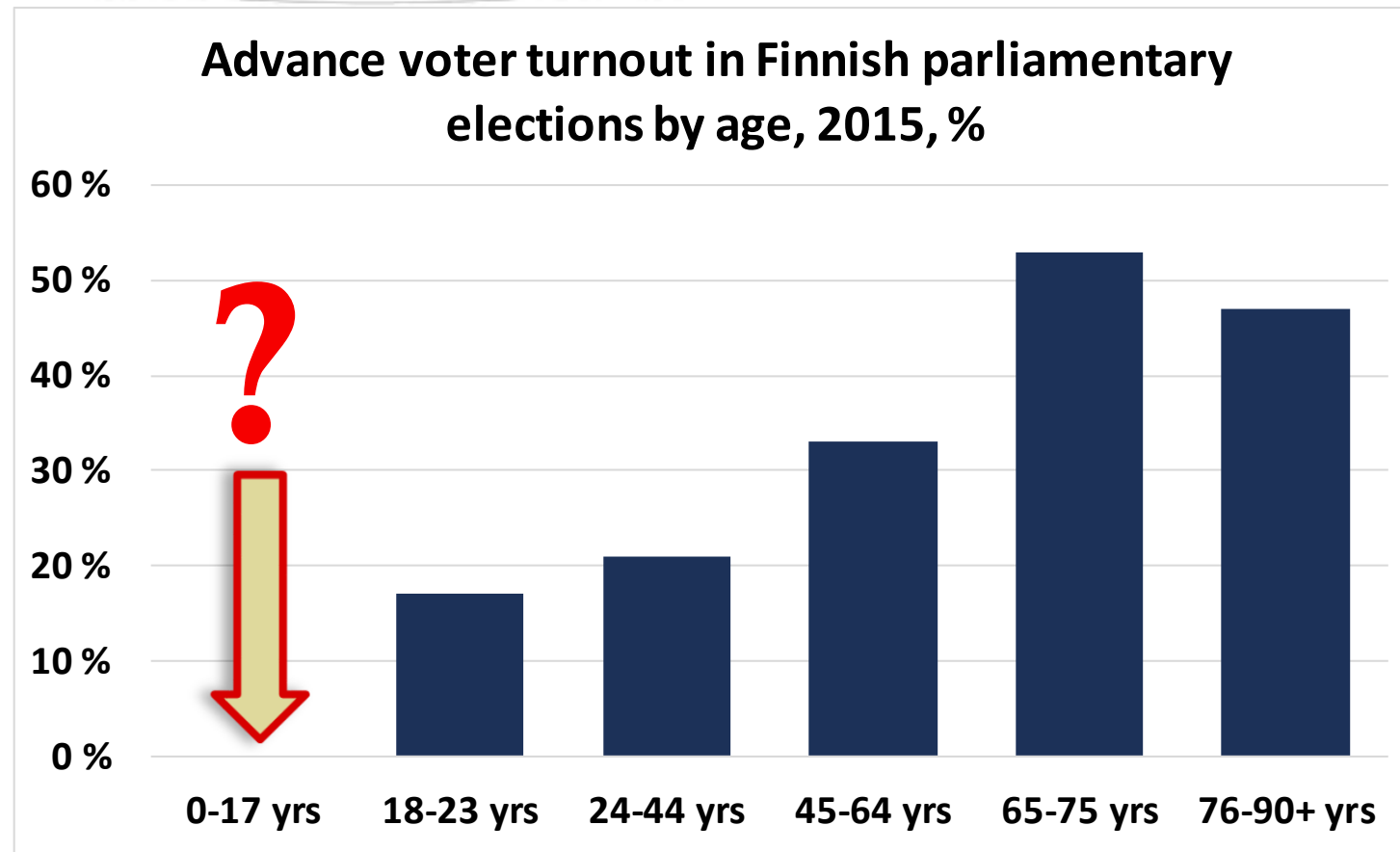
- ❖ To commemorate Finland's 100-year anniversary and the fact that Finland was the first country in Europe to give the voting right to women in 1906

Children's Voice Association supports and aims to raise awareness of:

- ❖ 100% inclusiveness in democratic decision-making: all citizens should have voting rights & voting possibility independent of age or health issues
- ❖ Lowering voting age and introduction of proxy voting for children via dedicated people*

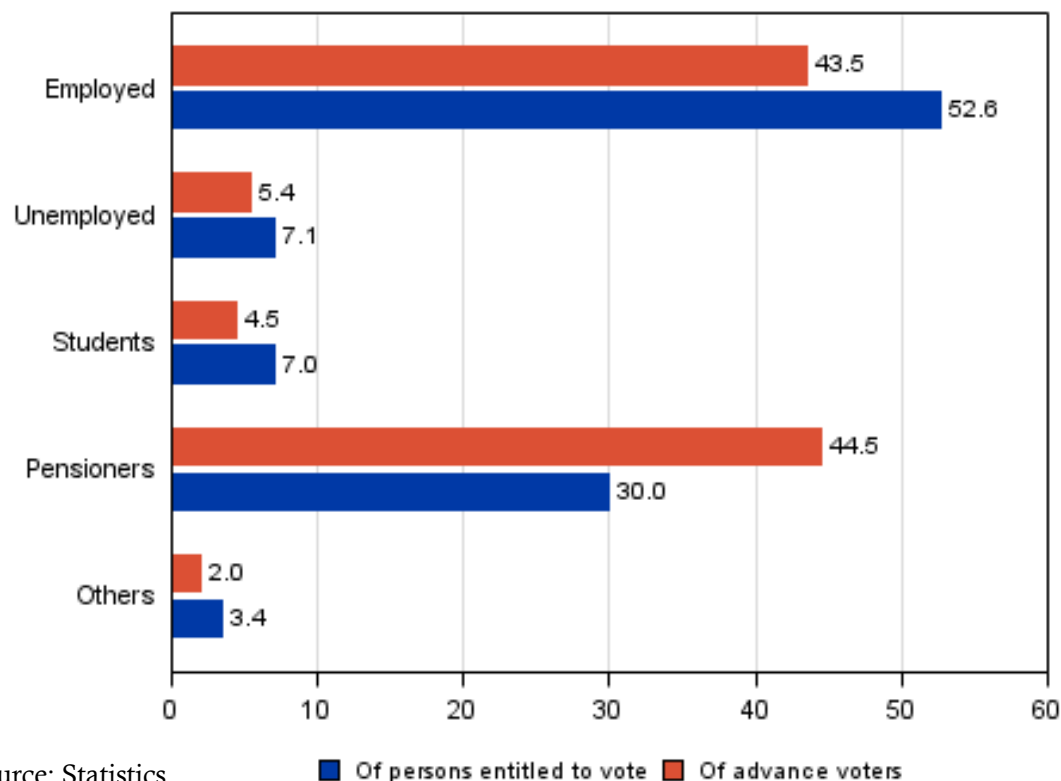
() Children's Voice Association does not take a firm view on who these "dedicated people" should be. We believe specialists' opinions need to be heard and public opinion polls conducted to find an appropriate practical solution for each country. There are several options ranging from parents/caretakers to kindergarten/school personnel or dedicated/specialized social/research workers - all these can vary also depending on the age and family situation of the child.*

Voting activity by age groups in Finland

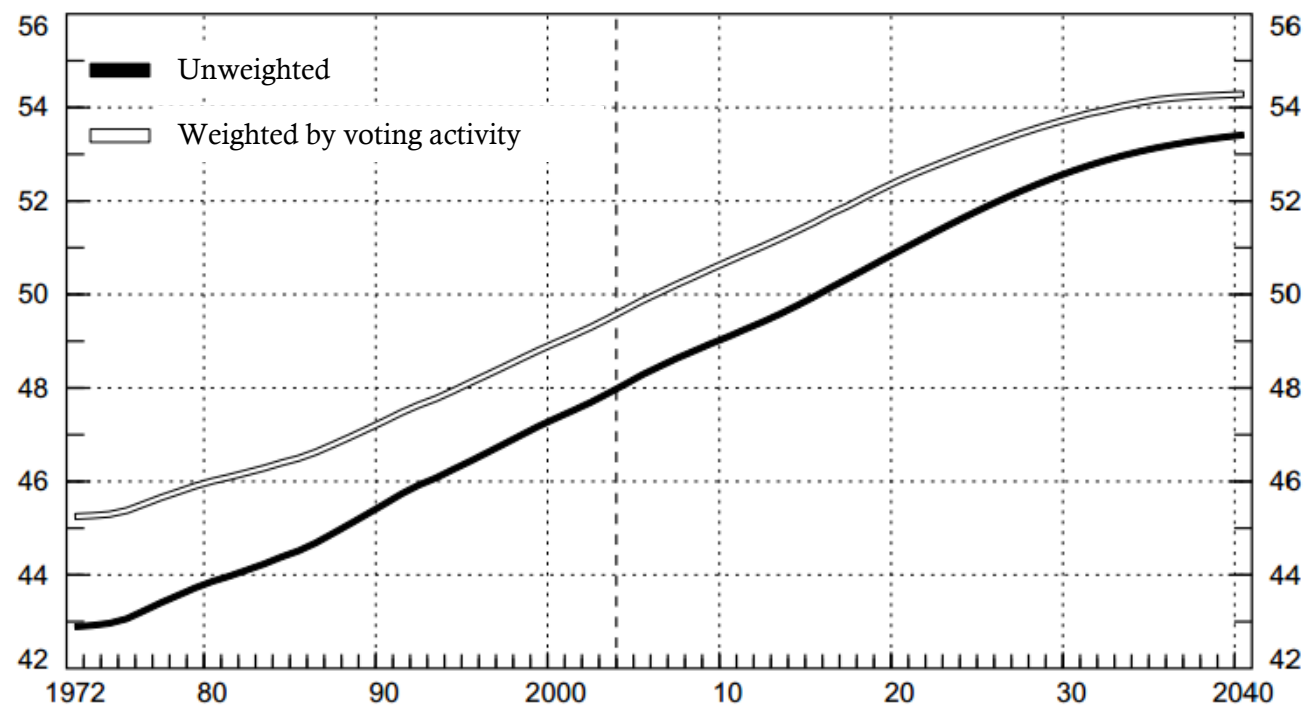


Average voting age constantly grows

Persons entitled to vote and advance voters by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



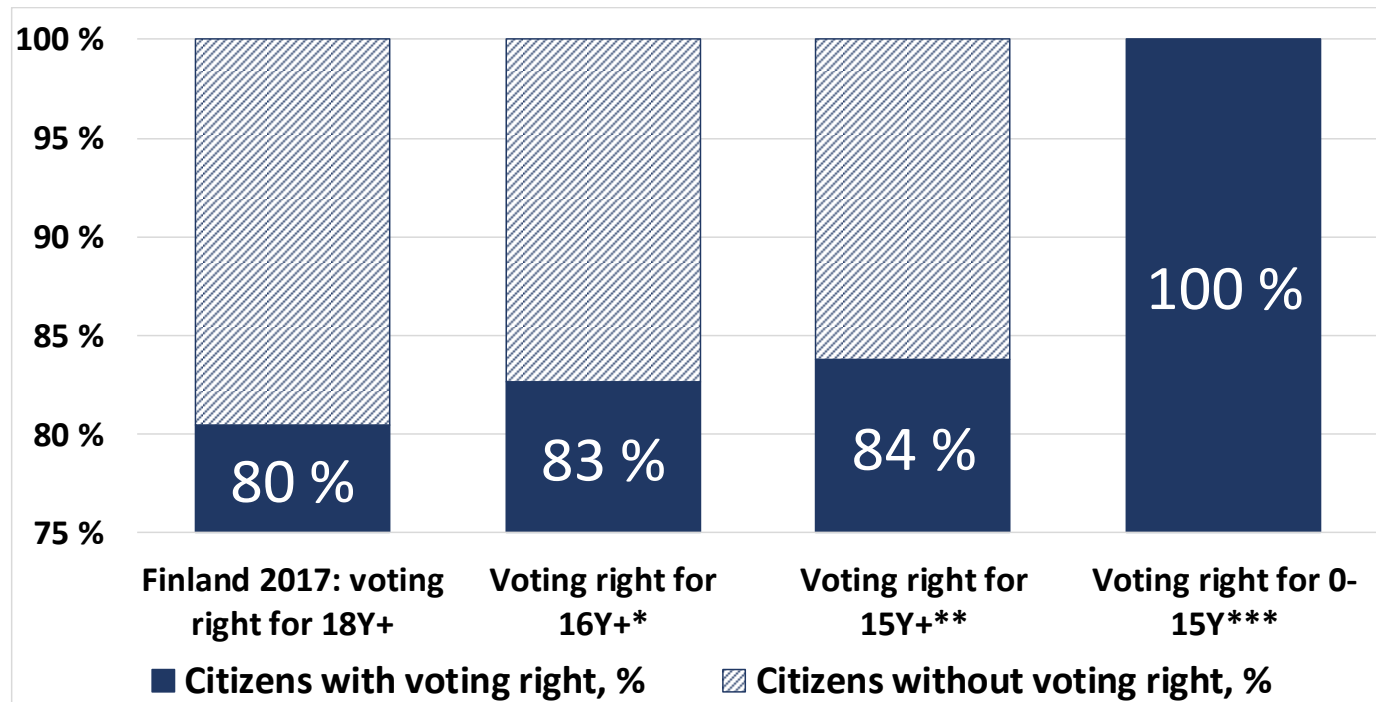
Average voters' age in Finland



Source: <http://www.tieteessatapahtuu.fi/0105/vartia.pdf>

Roadmap to 100% inclusive suffrage

Roadmap to universal voting rights



*) We support the EU recommendation and public opinion in Finland of lowering voting age limit to 16 years

**) We would like to see voting age limit being consistent with the criminal responsibility age of citizens, i.e. 15yrs currently in Finland and optional proxy voting right being introduced for all 15-18 yr old citizens.

***) For 0-15 yr old citizens we would like to see the proxy voting right being introduced.

Data source: Finnish Statistics Office, end-2016, own calculations

Young & old vote differently: case Brexit

- Inter-generation theft in the case of Brexit: the young who would need to live with the consequences of Brexit longer than the old were against Brexit

Age Group	Median Age	Remain	Leave	Life Expectancy	Average number of years they have to live with the decision
18-24	21	64%	24%	90	69
25-49	37	45%	39%	89	52
50-64	57	35%	49%	88	31
65+	73	33%	58%	89	16

Polling Data = YouGov. 1652 people. 17-19th June 2016

Life Expectancy based on ONS pension planner life expectancy estimator

Average 65+ year old was estimated to be 73 using ONS age distribution data

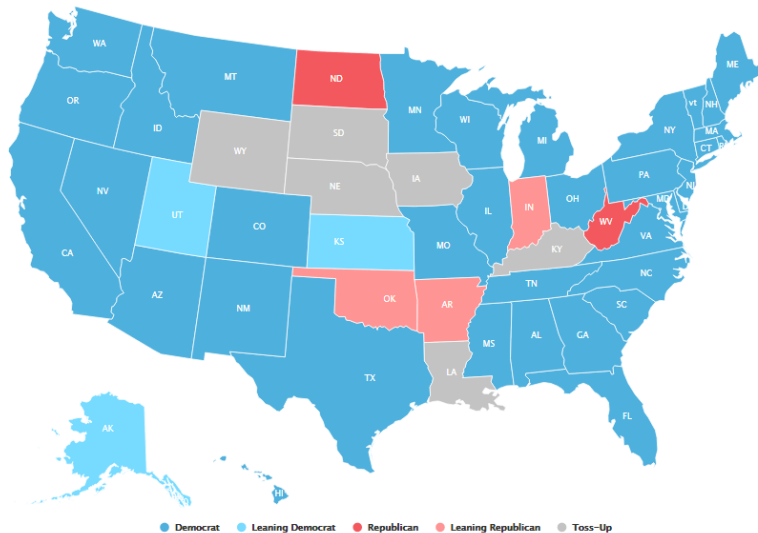
Those who were undecided or wouldn't say have been excluded

Those who must live with result of the EU referendum the longest want to remain.

Young and old vote differently: case Clinton vs Trump

Millennials (18-34 yrs) vote:

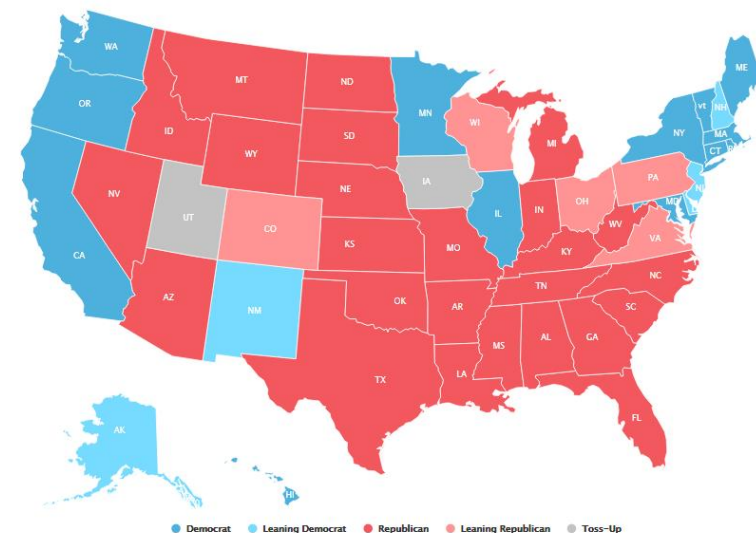
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/elections/map?poll=sm-lv-millennials-cps>



Source: Millennials (ages 18-34) | Oct 25, 2016 - Nov 7, 2016
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/elections/map>

Seniors (65+ yrs) vote:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/elections/map?poll=sm-lv-age65-cps>



Source: Seniors (ages 65+) | Oct 25, 2016 - Nov 7, 2016
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/elections/map>

Inter-generational theft: case climate change

Kids might in the future sue the governments
also for excessive public debt?



[News](#) > [World](#) > [Americas](#)

Children have right to live without fear of climate change and can sue US government, judge rules

The group of 21 youths want more control over their own future, health and personal safety

Rachael Revesz New York | [@RachaelRevesz](#) | Thursday 17 November 2016 | [2 comments](#)



Children's suffrage idea dates back to 1873

- ❖ **1873:** Henri Lasserre, “the historian of Notre-Dame de Lourdes” proposed that every French citizen is given one vote irrespective of age or gender
- ❖ **1923:** French parliament approved children's and women's voting right (440 vs 135)
- ❖ **1980'ies:** demographer Paul Demeny advanced the idea of “Demeny vote”
- ❖ **2003:** parental vote proposed in the UK by “Demos” think tank
- ❖ **2003 ja 2008:** votes took place in German Bundestag about “kinderwahlrecht”
- ❖ **2007:** parental vote proposed by Dutch economist Lans Bovenberg
- ❖ **2013:** Canadian professor Miles Corak TED talk: “Should Children be Given the Vote?”
- ❖ **2013:** 11 German children appealed to court demanding their right to vote

➤ **In 2000'ies parental voting has been researched in Japan, Germany, Austria, Canada, USA and Hungary**



Proxy voting for children needs to be introduced

Children 0-18 year old:
30% of World population



**PROXY VOTING
POSSIBILITY**



➤ **“Proxy voting” tradition in Great Britain
dates back to 16th century!**

Every child's right to be heard

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 12:

Every child has the right to be heard

(Article 5)

(It is parents' responsibility to make sure that all children's rights are executed)

Summary: why should children be given voting rights?

1. MORAL

Children are citizen. All citizen deserve to have voting rights.

2. DEMOCRATIC SUSTAINABILITY

Defending & ensuring sustainability of democracy: improving youngsters' degrading belief in democracy.

3. ECONOMIC

Adding future-oriented weight to economic decision-making – increasing society's dynamics & competitiveness by empowering young people. Optimizing resource allocation both between generations and within the children & youth group.

Thank you!



Australian Children
identified
their 'right to be
heard' as their
number 1
most violated
right.



prosody blog
childhoodtrauma.org.au



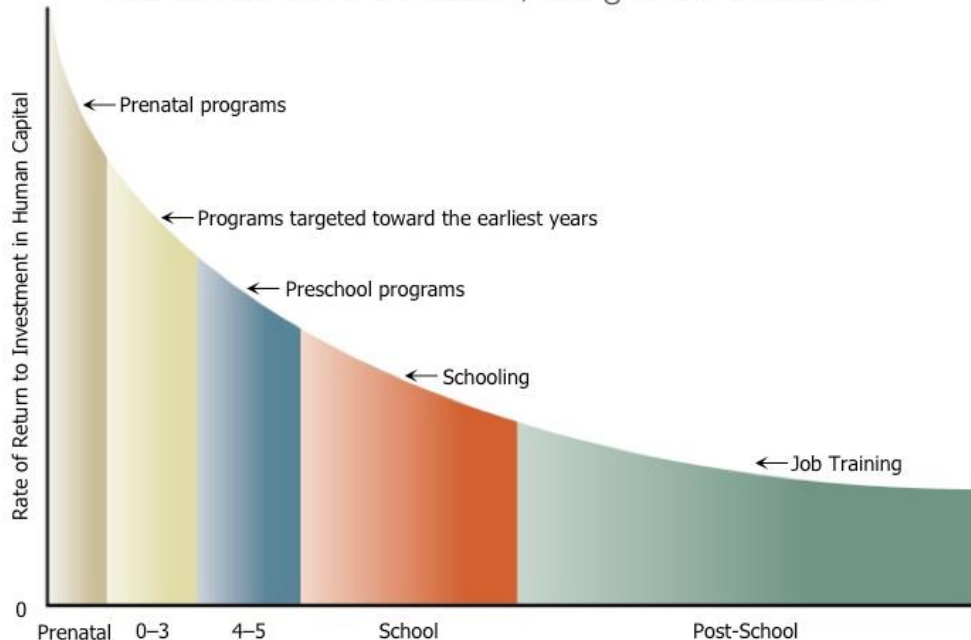
A decorative header at the top of the slide, consisting of a solid blue curved shape that spans the width of the page.

Additional slides

Kids' voting interests likely to support sustainable societal focus

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A **SMART INVESTMENT**

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

- ❖ Nobel-prize winning research by James Heckman shows high 13% p.a. ROI on early education...
- ❖ ...and multiple positive sustainable effects for society in the form of lower crime, lower healthcare costs, higher adult productivity and self-sufficiency

Internet age children are different from those 20 years ago

- ❖ Much better informed, learning faster, making innovations, expressing complex opinions:
 - Children winning Google Science Fair: <https://www.googlesciencefair.com/en/>
 - Boyan Slat and history's largest oceans' clean-up project: <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>
 - Max Loughan – 13-year old physicist: <http://upliftconnect.com/13-year-old-physicist/>
 - Jack Andraka (16) invents cheap, accurate cancer test: <http://singularityhub.com/2013/02/25/16-year-old-jack-andraka-invents-innovative-cancer-test-using-google-search/>
 - Muskaan Arihaan (9) set up a library for children in India: <http://www.trueactivist.com/this-9-year-old-girl-opened-a-free-street-library-in-india-for-illiterate-children/>

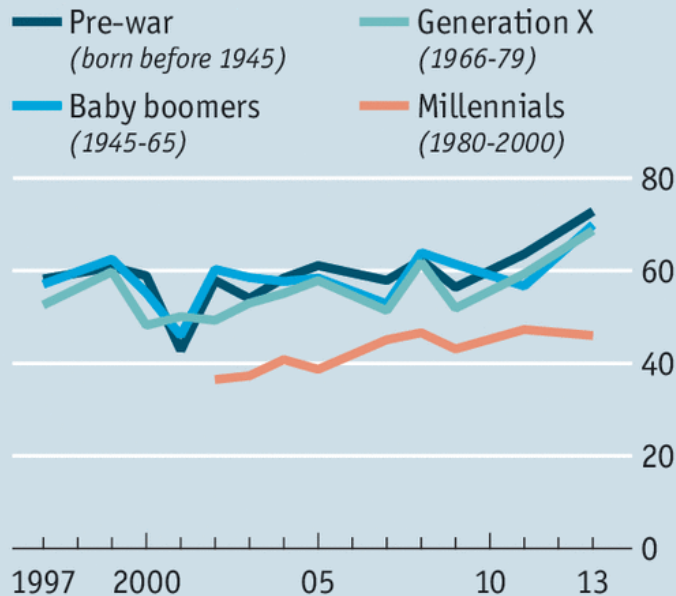


...but the young are failing to vote

- putting inclusive societies at risk in the future

Faith no more

Britain, respondents saying they trust the man/woman on the street to tell the truth
By generation, % of total

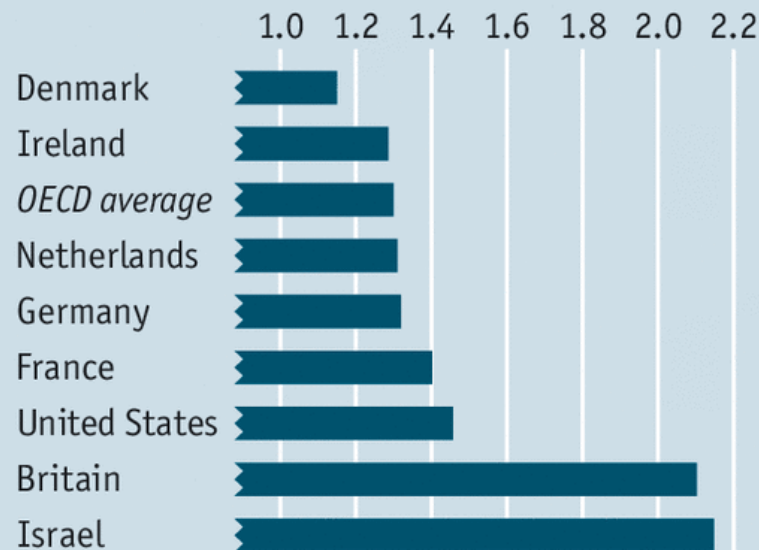


Source: Ipsos MORI

Wasted on the young

Ratio of turnout, old* registered voters over young†
1=equal turnout

Latest election for legislature, 2011-13



Source: OECD

*Aged 55 and over †18- to 24-year-olds

Source: The Economist 4.2.2017
"Not turning out. Millennials across the rich world are failing to vote"

The young are becoming an "oppressed minority" in aging societies

("The Economist" 23 January 2016)

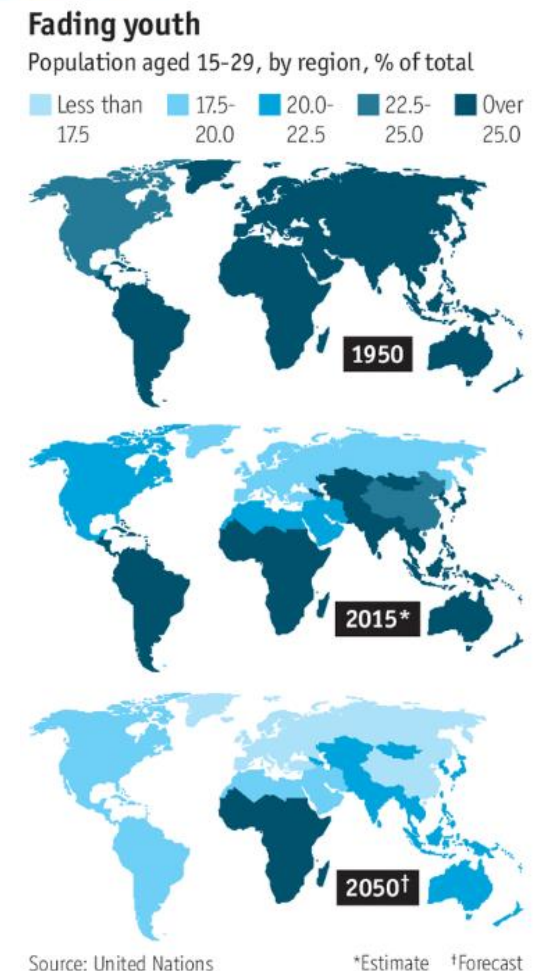
- ❖ R. Lee & A. Mason study of 23 countries shows that in aging societies there is a real risk of net intergenerational transfers to start flowing from young to elderly
- ❖ In 5 countries this happens already: Germany, Austria, Japan, Slovenia & Hungary
- ❖ At the same time life for the young is becoming gradually more expensive and the path to forming families longer

Sources:

"Population Aging & the Generational Economy", Lee & Mason 2011

https://is.vsfs.cz/el/6410/zima2013/BA_PF_B/um/Social_security

"Generation uphill", "The Economist" 23 Jan 2016, <http://learnmore.economist.com/story/583d8bee6cd91d54624cde19>



Value of formal education declining

Figure 1.2 - Today's young adults with debt and a degree earn same as workers with no degree earned in 1989

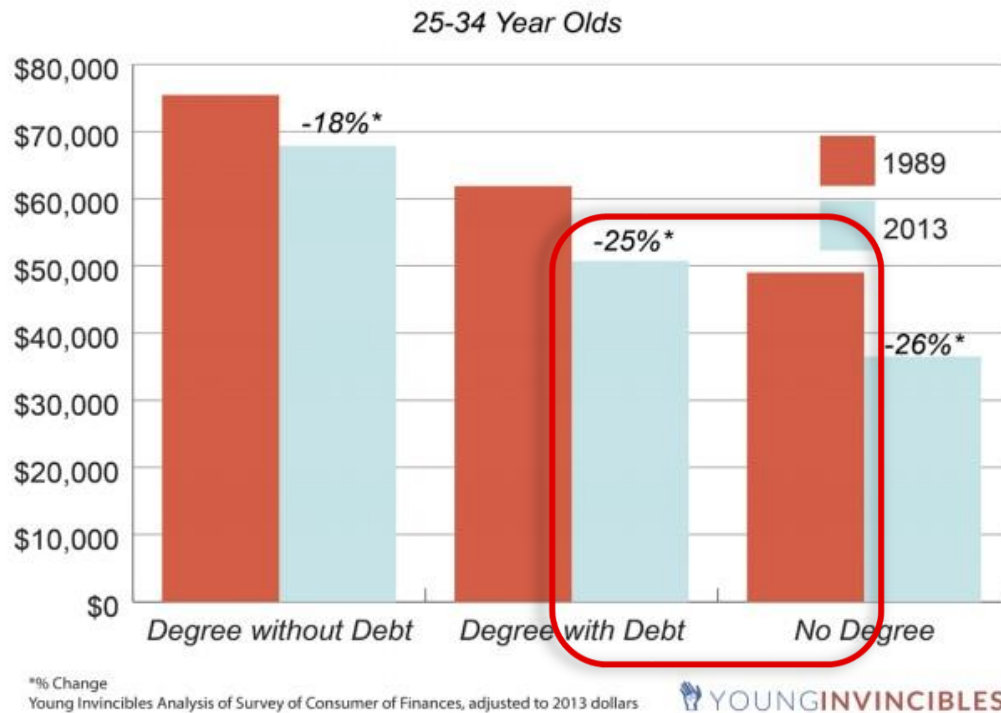


Table 1.1 - Millennials Earn Less than Boomers

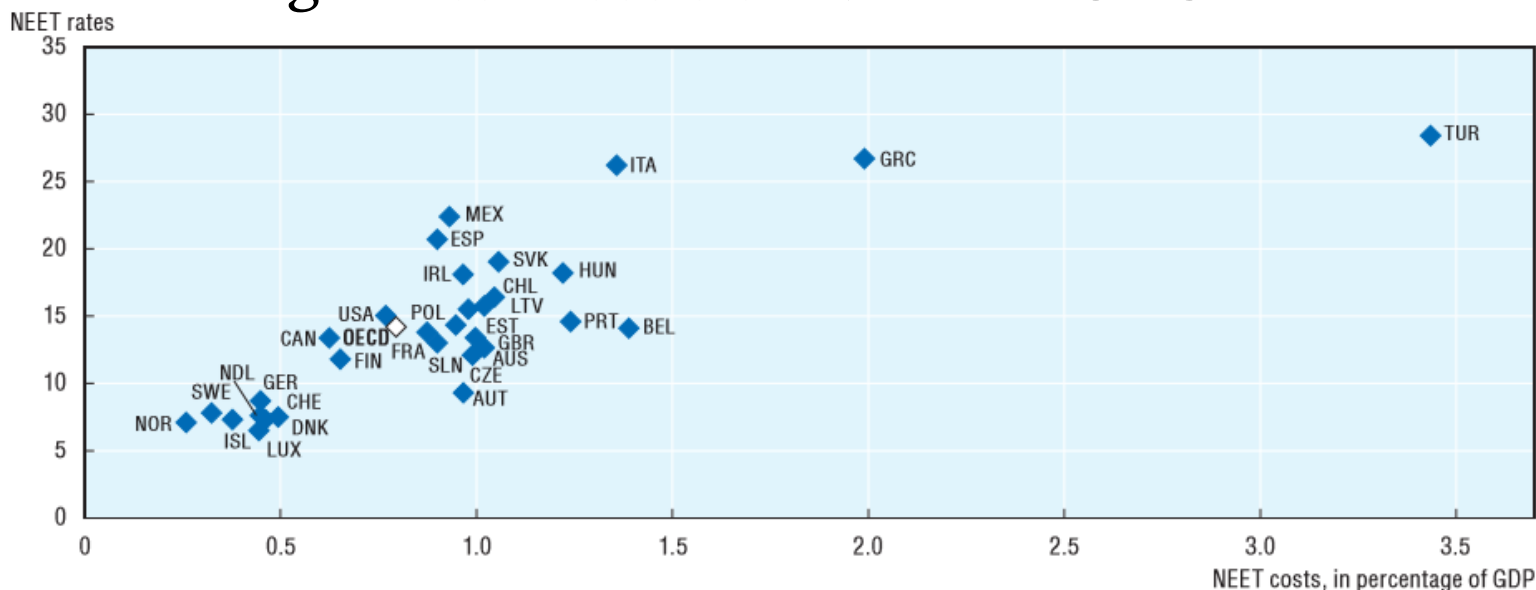
25-to-34 year-olds	1989	2013	Percent Change
All	\$50,910	\$40,581	-20%

Source: <http://nordic.businessinsider.com/comparing-millennials-to-baby-boomers-2017-1/>

Life for young generation getting tougher

- OECD Youth Inclusion Project 2014>>

High rates & costs of NEET in OECD



"NEET"= the number of 15-to-29 year-olds not in employment, education or training

Source: OECD Society at a Glance 2016: "The NEET challenge: What can be done for jobless and disengaged youth?"

Societal tensions bring to power new parties: cases Lithuania & Iceland

- ❖ Anti-emigration "Peasants & Green Union" party won in Lithuania on brain drain and aging population worries. The country lost over 20% of its population since 1990 – mostly youngsters.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/24/anti-emigration-party-storms-to-victory-in-lithuania/>
- ❖ In Iceland the anti-corruption hackers "Pirates" party tripled its presence in parliament and forced PM to resign:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/31/world/europe/iceland-s-prime-minister-resigns-after-pirate-party-makes-strong-gains.html>
- ❖ Is the emergence of completely new parties dominated by youngsters likely also in other aging and indebted societies?



Ways to improve youth voting activity

= ways to ensure sustainability of democratic societies

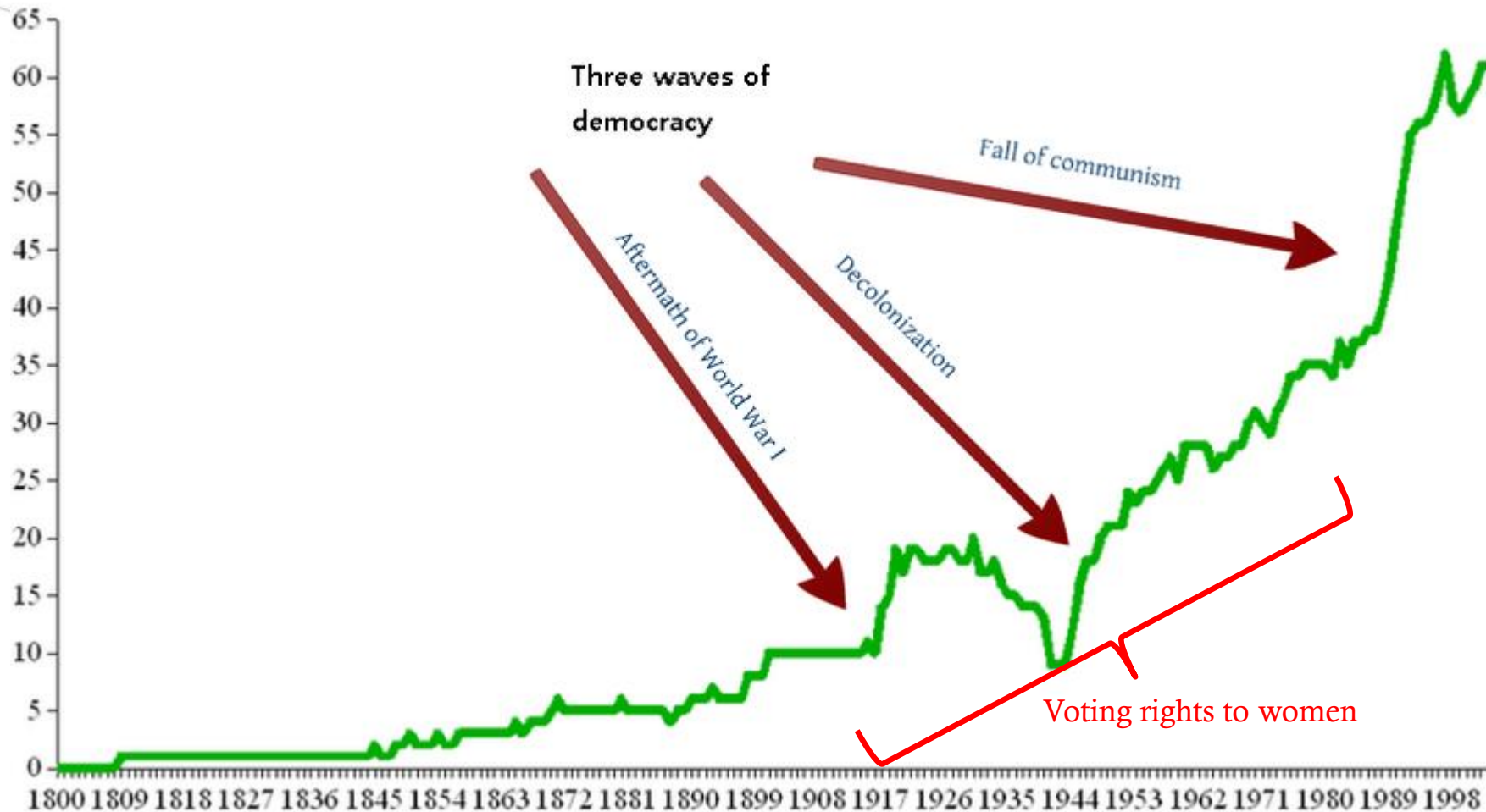
1. Raise and nurture the belief in democracy “while drinking mother’s milk” – let kids learn about societal participation early. Strengthen the belief in democracy through education. Teenagers who experience democracy first-hand during their studies are more likely to vote afterwards.
2. Lower the suffrage age. Children who are allowed to vote earlier, while still living at home, are more likely to vote afterwards.
3. Remove obstacles to voting that can trip up the young and others with limited mobility or thinking ability
 - Implement portable and/or electronic voting

Selected other relevant questions

- How should the **pension system** consider the fact that some people in society produce new citizens (children) and others don't? Should the pension contributions' size be dependent on whether and how many children the person/family is raising?
- Should **income taxation** consider family units and their children-related expense needs? Social security considers family units but current taxation does not.
- Should the **voters' weights in special societal cases** (extreme aging or extremely young societies) be determined depending on whether they have children or not, on their remaining life expectancy and other societal resource allocation considerations?

Three waves of democracy

Number of nations scoring 8 or higher on Polity IV scale



Source: Wikipedia

Kids' voting education in USA since 1988

The programme model operates with five key components:

1. Strong curricula for K-12 offer easily implemented, interactive lessons at no cost to the schools.
2. Choice of mock election processes to meet the individualized needs of the schools: paper ballots, electronic voting software, and/or a combination of both.
3. Activities to involve families in teaching their children their own voting values.
4. Educator support through local Affiliates to provide assistance with ballot creation, volunteers for activities, and resources needed for teaching civic lessons and creating voting habits.
5. Research on impact and effectiveness.

Kids casting votes in Plymouth, USA, in 2008



Source: "Kids voting USA" kidsvotingusa.org/about-us

Correct societal decision making matters!

case Iceland - best in Europe for cleanest-living teens

The results of positive kids- & teens inclusive programme are:

- ❖ The percentage of 15- and 16-year-olds who had been drunk in the previous month down from 42% in 1998 to 5% in 2016
- ❖ The percentage who have ever used cannabis is down from 17% to 7%
- ❖ Those smoking cigarettes every day fell from 23% to just 3%

Source: <https://mosaicscience.com/story/iceland-prevent-teen-substance-abuse>



Costs of achieving sustainable development: <4% of WGP

1. <1% of WGP for climate change
2. <1% of WGP for ending poverty
3. 1-2% of WGP for core infrastructure

Costs of global violence: 13% of WGP

➤ **Economic costs of sustainability implementation are relatively small, lack of commitment is a problem!**