



FACTSHEET | Child Voting Scheme Violates the 1st and 14th Amendments of U.S. Constitution

PILF filed a [federal lawsuit](#) on behalf of Lisa Kim, her son, and William Holland to challenge a Maryland County child voting scheme.

- **Public school children in grades 6th-11th** elect a **full voting member** of the Howard County Board of Education.
- The Howard County Board of Education consists of 8 members.
 - Two of the members are elected at large and the other 5 are elected by residential districts.
 - The eighth member is a student elected only by students attending public schools from grades 6th through 11th
- The student member cast a key vote to keep schools closed during COVID.

The child voting scheme violates the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by giving some students greater representation than adults and using different election standards.

- The student member seat is **malapportioned** and has **diluted** the votes of all Howard County voters who are not students in grades 6th through 11th.
- Some students voting for the student member are eighteen, giving them more representation on the school board than other adults in Howard County.
 - If a student is eighteen, they have four school board members – the two that are elected at large, their one residential district member, and the student member.
 - Comparatively, all non-student adults in the county have three school board members – the two at large and their one residential district member.
- By giving some students greater representation than their adult neighbors, the Board of Education has violated the **14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause**.

- The 14th Amendment is further violated by using two entirely different election standards and procedures.

By restricting the right to vote to only public-school children, the First Amendment rights of students who attend catholic and other religious schools are being violated.

- Catholic school children and other religious school children are being discriminated against because they are not allowed to vote because they attend a religious school.
- Denying the right to vote because of your religious association violates the First Amendment's free exercise clause.
- The Catholic school children are affected by decisions made by the school board because they rely on the County for certain services such as transportation and buses.

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Prior case filings in *Kim and Holland v. Board of Education of Howard County* and documents can be found [here](#).