

CITY ATTORNEY'S BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY OF MEASURE _____

The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:


BALLOT TITLE:

A Proposed Charter Amendment Authorizing the City Council to Adopt an Ordinance Allowing Persons Aged 16 and 17, who would otherwise be Eligible to Vote under State Law, to Vote for the Office of School Board Director.

BALLOT SUMMARY:

Currently, persons under the age of 18 cannot vote in Oakland school board elections. This measure would give the Oakland City Council authority to lower the voting age for Oakland school board elections from 18 to 16. Specifically, the City Council would be authorized to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. This measure would not allow the City Council to change any other voter eligibility requirements under state law.

This measure was placed on the ballot by the Oakland City Council. Passage of this measure requires an affirmative vote of a majority of voters (i.e., more than 50% of the votes cast). A "yes" vote will approve the measure; a "no" vote will reject the measure.


BARBARA J. PARKER
City Attorney

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Alameda County

AUG 07 2020

Reg. of Voters

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE _____

Currently, persons under the age of 18 cannot vote in Oakland school board elections. This measure would give the Oakland City Council authority to lower the voting age for Oakland school board elections from 18 to 16. Specifically, the City Council would be authorized to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. This measure would not allow the City Council to change any other voter eligibility requirements under state law.

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE YOUTH VOTE

Vote Yes on Measure QQ - Everyone Deserves Representation

Everyone should have a say in the decisions made by elected officials that impact their lives. Oakland students are directly impacted by the priorities and policies of the Oakland Unified School District but currently have no representation on decisions about critical issues like school safety, student discipline, nutrition, academic success, and their future.

They need and deserve a voice. Measure QQ would ensure Oakland students have representation by granting Oakland youth ages 16 and 17 the right to vote in School Board elections.

Fostering the next generation of responsible participants in our democracy has never been more important. This measure would enfranchise thousands of new voters each school board election, many of whom come from our most marginalized communities. By empowering our young adults to vote in local school board elections, Oakland is cultivating informed and civically engaged voters for years to come.

Other cities in the United States that allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote have seen incredible results. After Takoma Park, MD lowered its voting age for the 2013 election, turnout among 16 and 17-year-olds was higher than any other age group. Berkeley has also approved a similar measure. Oakland's youth are at the forefront of movements regarding gun violence, environmental justice, and Black Lives Matter. They need representation to advocate for themselves where it impacts them most: their education.

Many of our community's young people work, pay taxes, and help support their families – all while facing challenges we could never imagine. They deserve the right to vote.

Vote for Oakland's youth and show them that we believe in them.

Join California State Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond, Senator Nancy Skinner, Oakland City Council, Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Wellstone Democratic Club, and vote yes on Measure QQ.

More information at www.OaklandYouthVote.org

s/ Abdi Soltani
Executive Director, ACLU of Northern California

s/ Lukas Brekke-Miesner
Executive Director, Oakland Kids First

s/ Keith Brown
President, Oakland Education Association

s/ James Harris
School Board Director, Oakland Unified School District

s/ Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember

Summary

Currently, persons under the age of 18 cannot vote in Oakland school board elections. This measure, if approved by more than 50 percent of the voters, would give the Oakland City Council the authority to lower the voting age for Oakland school board elections from 18 to 16. Specifically, the City Council would be authorized to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. This measure would not allow the City Council to change any other voter eligibility requirements under State law.

The Oakland City Charter governs the elections for Oakland Unified School District's School Board Directors. The Oakland School Board has seven Directors elected to four-year terms by districts corresponding to the seven Oakland City Council districts. Three Directors are elected in the General Municipal Elections in a non-presidential election year, and the remaining four Directors are elected in the General Municipal elections in a presidential election year.

Fiscal Impact

Since this measure merely authorizes the City Council to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Director, the measure, by itself, does not have a direct fiscal impact.

If the measure passes, and if the City Council adopts such an ordinance in the future, the City would incur minor costs associated with allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. We estimate the City would incur additional costs of approximately \$7,000 - \$10,000, in years in which Oakland school board elections are held.

The additional costs include higher election costs paid to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and additional printing costs related to the increase in registered voters. Our estimate is based on the Oakland School Board election costs, paid by the City, for the 2018 General Municipal Election. Since the earliest that voters aged 16 and 17 could vote in Oakland School Board elections is November 2022 (two years after the November 2020 election), we would expect these costs to be slightly higher due to inflation.

Information in our independent analysis represents the best information available at the time of this analysis.

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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88117 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

RESOLUTION ON THE CITY COUNCIL'S OWN MOTION SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION, AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XI (ELECTIONS) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO ADD SECTION 1106 TO PROVIDE FOR VOTING BY PERSONS AGED 16 AND ABOVE FOR THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR ON THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY UNDER LAW TO SUBMIT THIS ITEM TO THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

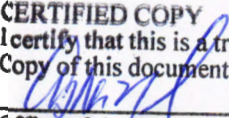
WHEREAS, research published in the American Political Science review suggests that younger first-time voters are more likely to become habitual voters, more likely to become life-long voters, strengthen participation in our democracy, and makes their parents more likely to vote as well; and

WHEREAS, California currently allows 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote in efforts to boost turn-out; and

WHEREAS, many countries where the minimum voting age is 16 have higher voter turnout than the United States, for example: in Austria, voter turnout is 72.45%, in Brazil voter turnout is 79.54%, in Germany voter turnout is 84.11%, and in Cuba voter turnout is 86.19% compared to 51.46% in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at age 16, young people in California can drive, work without restrictions, and pay taxes on their employment, as well as take care of their siblings, translate for their parents, and contribute to the family income; and

WHEREAS, youth under the age of 18 are making vital contributions to society every day, including leading with solutions and bold action on global climate change, gun violence, and improving their schools; and

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I certify that this is a true and authentic
Copy of this document.

Office of the City Clerk Date 8/7/2020

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District Board is comprised of seven (7) School Board Directors who are elected by Oakland voters in the City's municipal general election held in November in even years; and

WHEREAS, in Oakland, the voters must be 18 years of age to vote in School Board elections, therefore, 16 and 17-year olds cannot vote for School Board Directors despite the impact School Board Directors' decision have on students; and

WHEREAS, Oakland students are the primary recipients of the services that schools provide, and their experiences, needs and concerns should inform district policy and School Board members' priorities; and

WHEREAS, Oakland students have demonstrated the civic capacity to participate in the voting process, as evidenced by their successful advocacy and policy initiation efforts that have resulted in protecting critical student supports, such as free supper for high-need children, case managers for foster youth, and restorative justice coordinators; and

WHEREAS, Oakland students receive hundreds of instruction hours on the centrality of democracy and the importance of civic engagement and this will be an opportunity to put these lessons into practice and integrate the students' real voting responsibility into the learning process and their educational experience; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the value of young adults participation in school board elections, in 2016 70.31% of voters in the neighboring City of Berkeley voted to allow persons aged 16 and 17 years old, who are otherwise eligible to vote under state law, to vote for school board members; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 3, 2020 election, a measure to add Section 1106, to Article XI of the Oakland Charter to allow persons who are 16 years old and above to vote for the office of Oakland Unified School Board Director; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council finds and determines the foregoing recitals are true and correct and hereby adopts and incorporates them into this Resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council intends for this proposed amendment to Article XI of the Charter to authorize the City Council, by adoption of an ordinance, to allow persons aged 16 and 17 years old, who are otherwise eligible to vote under state law, to vote for the office of School Board Director; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon approval by the voters, the City Charter will be amended, to add, delete, or modify sections as set forth below (section numbers and titles are indicated in capitalized **bold type**; additions are indicated by underscoring, deletions are indicated by strike-through type; portions of the provisions not cited or not shown in underscoring or strike-through type are not changed); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon approval by the voters, the proposed Charter Amendment text shall be added to read as follows:

Section 1106. Youth Voting In School Board Elections. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Charter, the City Council, by adoption of an ordinance, may authorize persons aged 16 and above, who are otherwise eligible to vote under state law, to vote for the Office of School Board Director; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That each ballot used at said election shall have printed therein, in addition to any other matter required by law, the following:

**PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT
MEASURE ____**

Measure ____ Shall a measure amending the City of Oakland Charter to authorize the City Council, by adoption of an ordinance, to authorize persons aged 16 and above, who are otherwise eligible to vote under state and local law, to vote for the Office of School Board Director, be adopted?	YES 3 4 5 6	
	NO 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	

; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Clerk of the City of Oakland (the "City Clerk") at least 88 days prior to November 3, 2020 General Election, to file with Alameda County certified copies of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby request that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County include on the ballots and sample ballots recitals and measure language to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby request that Board of Supervisors of Alameda County permit the Registrar of Voters to perform necessary services in connection with said election; and be it

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 I certify that this is a true and authentic
 Copy of this document.

 Office of the City Clerk Date 8/7/2020

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in accordance with applicable law, the City Clerk shall fix and determine a date for submission of arguments for or against said ballot item and rebuttals and is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary under the law to prepare and submit this item for the November 3, 2020 election; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution shall be effective immediately upon approval by the City Council.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

MAY 19 2020

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

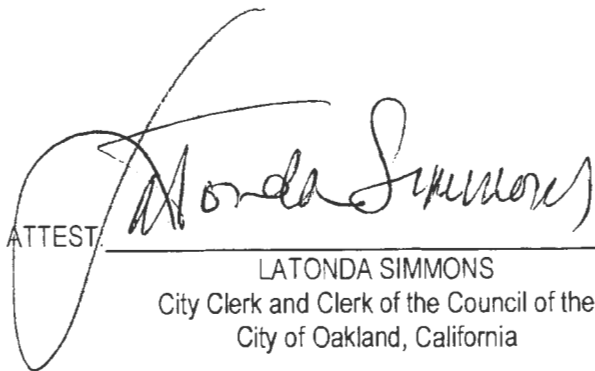
AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN — 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST


LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

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