


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR REBECCA KAPLAN, PRESIDENT NIKKI BAS,
AND PRESIDENT PRO TEM SHENG THAO

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REQUEST THAT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO UPDATE THE DIMS ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO ALLOW 16 AND 17-YEAR OLDS TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND PARTICIPATE BY RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS OF OAKLAND SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS AND THAT THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE PROVIDE ANY NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UPDATE IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT MEASURE QQ, WHICH AUTHORIZED THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING 16 AND 17 YEAR-OLDS TO VOTE FOR THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, Oakland City Council adopted Resolution 88117 C.M.S. submitting to the voters at the November 3, 2020 General Election a ballot measure amending the Charter of the City of Oakland to authorize City Council to adopt an ordinance allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for the Office of School Board Director (Measure QQ); and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2020, 67.88% of Oakland voters passed Measure QQ; and

WHEREAS, studies show the importance of including young people in the decisions that so deeply impact their lives, such as decisions about how their schools are run, and have noted the improved civic participation that results when young people can vote; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88665 C.M.S, which directed the City Administrator to prepare an ordinance for Council adoption to implement voting procedures for qualified persons aged 16 years old and above to vote for the office of School Board Director on the Oakland Unified School District Board, in accordance with the procedures developed by the City of Oakland Elections Official (City Clerk), the Alameda County elections official (Alameda County Registrar of Voters) and the Oakland Unified School District by October 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, individuals that wish to vote in any election must first register to vote;

WHEREAS, currently there is no process in place in Alameda County for 16 and 17-year-olds to register vote in Oakland school board elections; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County uses the DIMS Election Management System (“DIMS”) to manage elections for multiple Cities including the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, one of the functions of DIMS is to manage voter registration through-out Alameda County and, therefore, DIMS may need to be updated to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in Oakland School Board elections; and

WHEREAS, an update to DIMS may require approval from the Secretary of State as the DIMS system interfaces with the VoteCal system, which is California’s centralized voter registration database; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council supports the will of the voters to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in local school board elections, and supports the City Elections Official and the City Administration’s request that the Alameda County Registrar of Voters take all steps necessary, including but not limited to updating DIMS, to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to register to vote and participate by ranked choice voting in the elections of Oakland school board directors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council joins with the City Elections Official and the City Administration in asking the California Secretary of State to provide any authorization needed to implement Measure QQ and allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for the Office of School Board Director.

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IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –
ABSENT –
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California