

CITY OF OAKLAND



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NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS
Council President

REBECCA KAPLAN
Vice Mayor

SHENG THAO
President Pro Temp

Date: November 16, 2021

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public

From: Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan, Council President Nikki Bas, and Council Member Thao

Re: Adopt A Resolution Supporting The City Administrator's Request That The Alameda County Registrar Of Voters Take All The Necessary Steps 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

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

On November 3, 2020, Oakland voters passed Measure QQ with a strong 67% of the vote. It amends the City Charter to make it possible to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote for the office of the School Board Director. This ballot measure came about thanks to the strong advocacy and work of numerous young people in Oakland, who researched and advocated for it. The decisions made by school boards have deep and profound impacts on the lives of our young people. In addition, letting 16 and 17-year olds vote can increase civic participation, community involvement, and build future voting habits.

To begin the process of implementing this measure, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88665 C.M.S on June 1, 2021, 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. This ordinance was to be brought to Council in October, but City staff have encountered barriers to finalizing voting procedures required by the ordinance, including aspects of voter registration and participation that are under the control of County elections systems and State authorizations. This resolution asks the County, and State to take the necessary steps to implement Measure QQ. It is vital that we implement this measure and enfranchise thousands of youths across Oakland.

In order to complete this process, it is vital that the Alameda County Registrar of Voters take necessary steps 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 necessary authorization for the system update in order to implement Measure QQ, to allow for 16 and 17-year olds to get the ability to vote in Oakland school board elections.

City Council
November 16, 2021
File # 21-0816