



City Attorney's Office

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR KAPLAN

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION TO IMPLEMENT VOTING PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS AGED 16 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE UNDER STATE LAW, 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**

**WHEREAS**, on November 3, 2020, Oakland voters passed Measure QQ by 67%, which amends the city charter to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote for the office of the School Board Director; and

**WHEREAS**, Article XI of the City Charter governs City Elections, in addition to the State Elections Code with respect to matters where the City's elections laws are silent. Article XI requires the council to adopt local elections procedures by ordinance, and these are codified at OMC Ch. 3.08; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk is the city's Elections Official; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk, Alameda County Registrar, Oakland Unified School District are collaboratively working to develop youth voting procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution directs the City Administrator to prepare an ordinance that would amend OMC 3.08 to implement the youth voting procedures, thus enfranchising thousands of Oakland youth every School Board election cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, voter turn-out in Oakland is lowest in the three districts that have the highest percentage of OUSD students. Half the students in our school district (or 51.3%) live in Districts 5, 6, and 7; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the state of California already recognizes that 16 years old and above have the maturity, reasoning and comprehension skills to be granted new responsibilities, such as the ability to work, drive, and pay taxes on the income they earn; and

**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**, 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**, 16- and 17-year-old voters have not previously been enfranchised to vote in elections for Board of Education Directors in a city of this size, it is critical to implement the voter’s will with fidelity; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is directed to prepare an ordinance for Council adoption to implement voting procedures for qualified persons aged 16 years old and above, who would otherwise be eligible to vote under state law, to vote for the Office of School Board Director on the Oakland Unified School District Board; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator will prepare this ordinance in accordance with the procedures developed by the City of Oakland Election Official (City Clerk), the Alameda County Election Official (Alameda County Registrar of Voters) and the Oakland Unified School District by the October 5, 2021 Council meeting.

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