

# CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

#LoveLife

REBECCA KAPLAN  
Vice Mayor  
aflarge@oaklandnet.com

(510) 238-7008  
FAX: (510) 238-6910  
TDD: (510) 839-6451

Date: May 20, 2021  
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public  
From: Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan  
Re: **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 To Vote For The Office Of School Board Director On The OUSD Board**

---

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

On November 3, 2020, Oakland voters passed Measure QQ 67%, which amends the city charter to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote for the office of the School Board Director. This resolution begins the process of implementing Measure QQ by directing the City Administrator to prepare an ordinance amending OMC 3.08 to include youth voting procedures. Once fully implemented, thousands of Oakland youth will be able to vote in every school board election cycle during the City's municipal general election held in November in even years.

Article XI of the City Charter governs the City Elections and requires the Council to adopt local elections procedures by ordinance, which are codified at OMC Ch. 3.08. The City Clerk, Alameda County Registrar, and Oakland Unified School District will work together to develop these procedures. Once finalized, they can be given to the City Administrator and turned into an ordinance to be considered by Council. Only after this ordinance is passed by Council will Measure QQ be fully implemented.

It is vital that we implement Measure QQ and enfranchise thousands of youth across Oakland. Voter turn-out in Oakland is lowest in Districts 5, 6, and 7, which have 51.3% of OUSD students. By allowing those 16-years old and older to vote, these first-time voters are more likely to become habitual voters, life-long voters, and make their parents more likely to vote as well. Furthermore, youth under the age of 18 are making vital contributions to society every day, including improving their schools, and it is time that they have a say on who represents them on the OUSD Board. 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.

It is critical to implement the voters' will with fidelity and enfranchise 16- and 17-year-old voters to vote in elections for Board of Education Directors. I ask you to join me in asking the City Administrator to work with the necessary elections officials and submit to Council an ordinance that outlines the voting procedures and fully implements Measure QQ.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rebecca Kaplan".

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan  
Oakland City Councilmember At Large

City Council  
June 1, 2021  
File # 21-0411