



Co-Chairs

*All City Council
Student Union*

Oakland Kids First

**Oakland Youth Vote
Coalition Members**

*All City Council
Student Union*

*AYPAL: Building API
Community Power*

*Californians for
Justice*

*Oakland Youth
Advisory Commission*

Oakland Kids First

Youth Together

Power California

Bay Peace

*Centro Legal de la
Raza*

Youth Alive!

*Justice for Oakland
Students Coalition -
J4OS
(includes Parents
United for Public
Schools, Bay Area
PLAN, Oakland
Education Association,
Educators for
Democratic Schools,
Parent Voices, Equity
Allies, Concerned
Families of Students in
Special Education,
Teachers for Social
Justice, Brotherhood
of Elders, Public
Advocates Inc, OKF,
YT, CFJ, AYPAL, and
others)*

May 4, 2020

Dear Oakland City Councilmembers,

We, the undersigned, encourage you to stand with youth leaders and vote YES to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) to the November ballot for voters to decide! As of May 4, 2020 - Oakland Youth Vote has 300 endorsements and supporters sent 230 email letters to their Councilmembers (18 to Reid; 29 to Taylor; 40 to Gallo; 28 to Thao; 35 to McElhaney; 45 to Bas; and 35 to Kalb). In addition to the 230 emails, we also had 51 youth send emails to their Council representative. www.oaklandyouthvote.org

Sincerely,

Key Endorsers: CA Assemblymember Rob Bonta; CA Senator Nancy Skinner; Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf; Roseann Torres (District 5 School Board); Aimee Eng (District 2 School Board); James Harris (District 7 School Board); Jumoke Hinton-Hodge (District 3 School Board); Keith Brown (President of OEA Oakland Education Association) and the OEA Executive Board; Alameda County COPE Committee of SEIU Local 1021; Sheila Jordan (Superintendent of Schools Emerita, Alameda County); Jennifer Shanoski (President, Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT 1603); Angela Normand (Alameda County Board of Education; Amber Childress (Vice President, Alameda Board of Education); Gema Quetzal (Former Oakland Student Director on School Board and CA State Board of Education Student Board member) **Community Organizations:** ACCE; Causa Justa Just Cause; Oakland Rising; Faith In Action; Bay Rising; Wellstone Democratic Club Education Committee; Just Cities; Public Advocates Inc; Communities for a Better Environment; Centro Legal De La Raza; East Bay Asian Youth Center; Urban Habitat; Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice; East Bay Consortium; Allen Temple Baptist Church; APEN; Oakland Asian Cultural Center; Oakland Trybe; Filipino Advocates for Justice; ACLU of Northern California; Afrikan Black Coalition; East Oakland Building Healthy Communities; National Lawyer's Guild; Radical STEMM Educators of the East Bay;

Youth Organizations: Oakland Kids First; All City Council Student Union; Californians for Justice; AYPAL: Building API Community Power; Bay Peace; Youth Together; Power California; Oakland Youth Advisory Commission; East Oakland Youth Development Center; Youth ALIVE!; Alliance for Girls; Youth Leadership Institute; RYSE Center; Youth Uprising; Youth Speaks; Bay Area Community Resources; Generation Citizen Bay Area; 67 Sueños; 99 Rootz; Youth Leadership Council (OPD); Youth Vs Apocalypse; Mycelium Youth Network; Student Immigrant Empowerment Project at Stanford

Education Organizations: Justice for Oakland Students Coalition (J4OS); Marcus Foster Education Institute; Bay Area PLAN; Parent Voices Oakland; Educators for Democratic Schools; Parents United for Public Schools; Equity Allies; AAPI's for Civic Empowerment Fund; Oakland Education Fund

Individuals: All administrators and 41 teachers and staff at Fremont High; Staci Ross-Morrison (Principal, Oakland Tech); Cliff Hong (Principal, Roosevelt Middle School); Ann Swinburn (CTA, Center for Organizing and Bargaining); LaShawn Route Chatmon (National Equity Project); John Jones III; Young-Whan Choi (Assessments, OUSD); Romeo Garcia; David Yusem (Restorative Justice, OUSD); Kharyshi Wiginton (Culture Keepers at McClymonds); Wladimir Wlassowsky (Public Works); PTSA Board at Edna Brewer; Sam Davis, D1 School Board Candidate; Teachers (Life Academy, Brewer, Oakland High) and many other individuals and groups.



OAKLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
272 East 12th Street, Oakland, CA 94606
P: (510) 763-4020 F: (510) 763-6354
Affiliated with CTA, NEA and the AFL-CIO

April 27, 2020

Oakland City Council
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Councilmembers,

The Oakland Education Association Executive Board ***stands with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot.*** OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our union has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

757638EC44EA408...
Keith D. Brown
President

DocuSigned by:

E16C1741152D4E4...
Ismael Armendariz
First Vice President

DocuSigned by:

C5369A7B8C67410...
Chaz Garcia
Second Vice President

DocuSigned by:

C9ECF9B34F70420...
Bethany Meyer
Secretary

DocuSigned by:

111GBEA90255482...
Joey Notaro
Treasurer

DocuSigned by:

20661D0A279E439...
Kampala Taiz-Rancifer
Executive Board

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1000 Broadway, Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94607-4033

ousd.org/boe | boe@ousd.org

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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Student

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jody.london@ousd.org

Shanthi Gonzales, Vice President, District 6

shanthi.gonzales@ousd.org

Aimee Eng, District 2

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Jumoke Hinton Hodge, District 3

jumoke.hintonhodge@ousd.org

Gary Yee, District 4

gary.yee@ousd.org

Roseann Torres, District 5

roseann.torres@ousd.org

James Harris, District

james.harris@ousd.org

May 1st, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

It is a great honor to be providing the letter of support of the Brilliance and Leadership of Oakland youth leaders. Along with my colleagues representing nearly 50,000 young people, we stand with youth leaders. I strongly encourage you to vote YES at the upcoming City Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot.

As you know, OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. We have an opportunity to develop life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, influence the parents of young voters, and finally encourage civic minded citizens ready prepared to participate in our democracy as full citizens.

In my role as a Board member over the last twelve years I have witnessed the All City Council Student Union build initiatives designed to improve the quality of life and education of students of Oakland. I have stood beside them to support and ensure racial equity is achieved in order to serve the Asian Pacific Islander student community. Their advocacy is beyond supporting “programs” - they are focused on meaningful activities and outcomes that will improve their lives and educational experience. This group of young people are highly attentive to the quality of life and degree of agency they have about issues that matter to them and their community. My support for OYV is an extension of the work we have done to support things like: Sexual Exploited Minors, Restorative Justice, Foster Care youth, and Ethnic Studies policies - this work is in service of ensuring students are empowered and have agency in their lives.

I am fully committed to encouraging civic engagement being reflected in the curricular and pedagogy of the District. As Board leadership we will support the Superintendent and staff to provide the necessary education and support for these young voters.

Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

Respectfully,

Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Director District 3(She.Her.Her's)

Board of Education

Oakland Unified School District



BOARD OF EDUCATION

5/1/2020

Dear Councilmembers,

Hi Everyone, My name is Aimee Sueko Eng, I am proud to be the Oakland School Board Director for District 2 and I am super excited to support the young folks that are leading the effort around Oakland Youth Vote! It's just been so inspiring to see our youth leading and driving this dialogue and conversation city-wide at a time when we've obviously experienced a lot of challenges.

To see our young people step up in this leadership role gives me so much hope for the future, and is one of the many reasons why I feel very compelled to support this initiative to allow all 16 and 17 year olds in our city to vote for School Board elections. Voting for School Board is so important to their everyday experience as the recipients of our services and attendees at our schools. At Oakland Unified we already have youth participating in a lot of leadership opportunities and roles, whether it be All City Council, School Board Directors that sit up on the dais with us, as well as students that participate in the Parent-Student Advisory Council. ***Just last month, the School Board also amended our bi-laws to allow our Student Directors to sit in on our Education Partnership Committee with us, which is a partnership of City Council and School Board Members***, to ensure that we have youth representation on the Education Partnership Committee.

Also, so that our City leaders and School Board leaders are hearing directly from our youth who are most impacted by the decisions we make. So to me it makes sense as a City and as a collective to double down on our efforts to really embrace and uplift youth voice and so that's why I am super supportive of this effort and of the young people that are leading the charge during this time. ***I really encourage all of you to look into this effort further and I hope you will be as inspired as I am and I have been as I have by watching our young folks lead us during this time and through this initiative.***

Sincerely,

Aimee Sueko Eng (transcribed from the video she recorded in support of Oakland Youth Vote)



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Dear City Council Colleagues,

I have been tremendously impressed with the work of All City Council and the student board members since I joined the school board in 2013. They have been deeply engaged in efforts to increase student participation in district budget matters and have worked tirelessly to get students from all across the district civically engaged.

So it is with great pleasure that I offer my support of their efforts to earn Oakland students aged 16 and 17 the right to vote in future school board elections. I also support their efforts to develop a voter guide for all Oakland students to be better informed about the school board election process.

In times like these, I am reminded that students are the centerpiece of our community. So I am super encouraged by their efforts to educate and engage high school students in the election process.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

James Harris
Oakland School Board, District 7 Trustee



May 4, 2020

Dear City of Oakland Councilmembers and Leaders:

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th City Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. The Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections, many of whom are current Fremont High School student leaders.

For decades, Fremont High School has taught students research and advocacy skills. Part of our core curriculum focuses on civic engagement and culminates in our Senior Capstone Project, where students create meaningful action projects to meet a need in the community. Our staff is dedicated to supporting young people to understand and engage in our democracy. We teach our youth about inclusiveness, the Constitution, and their right to exercise their voice in a representative democracy. Our students and staff have been at the forefront of several City of Oakland bond measures, including Measure J in 2012 and Measure N in 2014. As a result, our school facility is benefiting significantly and our career pathways have continued to innovate, most recently recognized with Silver Certification by the California Linked Learning Alliance. In the past 10 years, our youth leaders have campaigned and advocated for more resources for all Oakland Unified students, all while not being able to vote. **We believe it is time to come together and give 8,000 Oakland youth the vote.**

We thank Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to our District 5 Councilmember Gallo, and Councilmembers McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

The Tiger Family is very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

--

Nidya Baez, Assistant Principal
Tom Skjervheim, Co-Principal
Rosemary Rivera, Co-Principal
Jorge Wahner, Assistant Principal
Ana Quintero, OUSD Parent & Program Assistant for BACR Fremont High Site
Agnes Zapata, Teacher, Fremont High School



Sandy Tu, Teacher, Fremont High School
Patricia Arabia, Retired Teacher/Dir, Mandela LawPS Academy/Fremont High School
Jessica Villanueva, Teacher, Fremont High School
Joshua Nardie, Teacher, Fremont High School
Leon Sykes, Teacher, Fremont High School
Luis Ocegüera, Teacher, Fremont High School
Jamie Brown, Counseling Enriched Social Worker, Fremont High School
Filiberto Chávez-Guerrero, Teacher, Fremont High School
Reyna Guerra, SDC Teacher, Fremont High School
Nola Taylor, Girls Basketball Coach, Fremont High School
Annie Lu, Teacher, Fremont High School
Tatiana Chaterji, Restorative Justice Facilitator, Fremont High School
Rachel Freeburg, Special Education Paraeducator, Fremont High School
Andrew Foy, Service Learning Program Coordinator, buildOn
Jasmene Miranda, Teacher, Fremont High School
Leonardo Gonzalez, Latino Men and Boys Mentor, Fremont High School
Joey Notaro, Teacher, Fremont High School
Jessica Peregrina, Latinx Mentorship and Achievement Coordinator, Fremont High School
Caitlin Martindale, Counselor, Fremont High School
Evan Bisbee, Teacher, Fremont High School
Nicolas Parker, Teacher, Fremont High School
Sophia Chaparro, Teacher, Fremont High School
Cesar Ayon-Morales, Teacher, Fremont High School
Pauline Alessi, Teacher, Fremont High School
Eloisa Madrigal, Newcomer Assistant, Fremont High School
Carmen Jimenez, School Based Program Associate, Refugee & Immigrant Transitions
Angela Reyes, Case Manager
Phong Hoang, Teacher, Fremont High School
Claudia Lara, Bilingual Clerk, Fremont High School
Richard Charlesworth, Social Studies Dept. Chair, Fremont High School
Ji Lee, Teacher, Fremont High School
Patricia Segura, TSA, Fremont High School
Melvin Phillips, Lead School Security Officer, Fremont High
Sara Delman, ELD Teacher, Fremont High School
Kehinde Salter, Performing Arts Instructor, Fremont High School
Maya Brodkey, Teacher, Fremont High School
Mario Miranda, Resource Teacher - Fremont High School-OUSD
Darlene Kato, Afterschool Program Coordinator-BACR, Fremont High School OUSD
Eva Ng, Teacher, Fremont High School

Sheila Jordan

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Emerita

Sheila@sheilajordan.org

April 27, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

I thank you and write to join you in supporting the initiative to allow 16 year olds to vote in School Board elections.

Years ago, Watsonville started to allow youth at age 16, documented or not documented, to vote in School Board elections. It is tremendously motivating for young people to be able to assess, question and evaluate candidates who will have an immediate effect on the conditions. They also will be open to better understanding the challenges of serving in that elected position as well as the budget constraints they face. I cannot think of a better education in fiscal and political affairs

Long-time backers of a lower voting age, like the National Youth Council, make this fairness argument as well as pointing out that this change has worked in practice. Two Maryland cities have successfully extended municipal voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds. Several nations, including Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, and the United Kingdom have extended voting rights to 16-year-olds for national, regional, or local elections. Additionally, more than 15 states already allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries to nominate candidates for president, Congress, and governor. Studies of voters' ages and habits in 18-year-olds were far more likely to cast their "first vote" than 19-year-olds, and that every month of extra age in those years resulted in a decline in "first vote" turnout. Allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections will enable them to vote before leaving home and high school, and establish a lifelong habit of voting.*

I salute you all for both listening to the student advocates and evaluating their proposals and thank you for your ongoing service to the people of Oakland.

Sincerely,



Sheila Jordan

**Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* Vol. 22, No. 4, 380–406, November 2012

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Patty Leal
Emily Wheeler



April 30, 2020

Council President Rebecca Kaplan &
Oakland City Council

Re: Support for Oakland Youth Vote

Dear Council President Kaplan and City Council members:

I write to express enthusiastic support on behalf of Public Advocates for expanding voting access to Oakland youth, age 16 and above, for local school board elections through the Oakland Youth Vote initiative. For nearly 50 years, Public Advocates has worked towards greater equity for California students and families. In areas of education, housing and transportation justice, we have worked for decades in deep partnership with community-based organizations representing Oakland youth, families and residents most-impacted by economic and racial injustices. We believe an engaged and informed public that includes strong youth voice is key to a thriving democracy. ***That is why we stand with youth leaders to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November 2020 ballot.***

As an initiative conceived of, researched and advanced by Oakland young people, Youth Vote is an inspiring example of youth-led social action with implications for powerful long-term change. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turnout in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

As a lawyer and policy advocate on education equity issues, youth vote also presents an exciting opportunity to reinvigorate civics education at a time when our democracy sorely needs more passionate participants and leaders. Already, youth in other parts of the state are watching what we do here in Oakland to inform their own campaigns to expand voting rights.

On a personal note, as an Oakland voter and public school parent of two future youth voters, I would welcome the opportunity to expand our electorate to include more voices from those most impacted by the decisions of our school board. Indeed, all of us who believe in the importance of a vibrant democracy should.

April 30, 2020
Public Advocates Inc.
Re: Support for Oakland Youth Vote

I wish to express appreciation to Council President Kaplan for authoring the Oakland Youth Vote measure and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for co-sponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to celebrating with you this important milestone of expanding voting rights for Oakland's young people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angelica K. Jongco', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angelica K. Jongco
Deputy Managing Attorney
Public Advocates Inc.
ajongco@publicadvocates.org

Oakland D2 Resident
Parent, Oakland Unified School District

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

April 26, 2020

To the City Council

I write on behalf of the Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club and our Education Committee. We enthusiastically endorse the measure before the Council to lower the voting age to 16 for school board elections. We understand each of you (and the mayor) have already expressed support for the measure. Your unanimous support for this measure makes us proud to be represented by you. Your support is consistent with the most far-sighted, progressive and democratic instincts we in the Bay Area share.

We support the measure because we believe it will encourage young people to become lifelong voters with a greater interest in public policy and hopefully in activism that will result in benefits for those most detrimentally effected by public and private policy in the past; people of color, the poor, the underprivileged.

Our Education Committee has been working for years to support public (that is democratically controlled) education. We have challenged the increasing pressure to privatize our public education system (for instance through charter schools), not because that system is perfect – it has certainly reflected and sometimes perpetrated historically unjust distribution of wealth and resources – but because we believe increasing democratic control of our public education is the greatest hope for increasing the accessibility to a quality education and the opportunities that come with it, for all.

Lowering the voting age to 16 we believe will expand democracy and encourage those normally left outside the halls of power and detrimentally effected by such exclusion to gain some control over the policies that effect their lives. We hope your support for those students who have led this effort will encourage them and other young people to continue in their civic mindedness and activism and overcome the powerlessness so many unfortunately now feel.

David Weintraub
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club Coordinating Committee
Chair, Wellstone Democratic Club Education Committee

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
www.wellstoneclub.org
PO Box 9572, Berkeley, CA 94709



Hi,

The Alameda County COPE committee of SEIU Local 1021 met tonight and voted to support the Oakland Youth Vote measure for the November election.

I will send this message to members of the Oakland City Council tomorrow.

Stay safe,
Pete.

Pete Albert
Co-Chair, Alameda County COPE Committee
Chair, Retiree Council
SEIU Local 1021



4/30/2020

Dear City Council Members,

As members of the Edna Brewer Middle School PTSA board we are writing to ask your support for Oakland Youth Vote. Our school invests heavily in the developing our student leaders. We have over 100 students participating as restorative justice peer leaders, student council leaders, PTSA board members, and GSA leaders. Looking at the important contributions that our middle school students make to our campus and our community we ask you to reject the arguments of those who claim that our 16 and 17-year old students are not ready to participate in the political process.

Voting is an important building block for Oakland youth as they develop themselves as engaged and committed members of our community. Studies show providing youth with opportunities to vote helps to create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well. These are wins we need in our cynical political times. The very fact that Youth Vote has been a sustained, youth-led campaign shows that our Oakland youth are ready and eager to engage as political actors. Please don't deny our high school students this opportunity to both exercise their vote and develop their identity as life-long voters.

Sincerely,

Nilofer Ahsan, Edna Brewer PTSA President

Jim Armstrong, Edna Brewer PTSA Secretary

Daniel Livsey, Edna Brewer PTSA Treasurer

Preston Smith, Edna Brewer PTSA Student Board Member Liaison

Amanda Brunato, Edna Brewer PTSA Treasurer

Margaret Chavigny, Edna Brewer PTSA Equity and Inclusion Co-Chair

Elayne Cho, Edna Brewer PTSA Sunshine Committee Chair

Andy Fullington, Edna Brewer PTSA Vice-President, Programs and Events

Eve Stewart, Edna Brewer PTSA Secretary

Sofia Luis, Edna Brewer PTSA Vice-President Community Engagement

Cindy Oludayo, Edna Brewer PTSA Equity and Inclusion Co-Chair

Christina Survine, Edna Brewer PTSA Vice-President, Programs and Events

Jessica Russell, Edna Brewer PTSA Vice-President, Communications

Beth Detweiler, Edna Brewer PTSA Lead Fun Run



Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Liz Suk,
Political Director
Oakland Rising

OUR PARTNERS



April 27, 2020

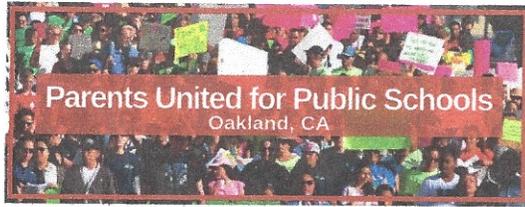
Mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaaf,
Councilmember Dan Kalb,
Councilmember Fortunato Bas,
Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney,
Councilmember Sheng Thao, Noel Gallo,
Councilmember Loren Taylor,
Councilmember Larry Reid,
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Dear Oakland Mayor and Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. Our organization invests in the energy of young voters of color and their families to create a state that is equitable, inclusive and just for everyone that calls California home. At Power California, we believe we can make California stronger if we all have an equal say in the decisions that impact our lives. But right now the voices that are most missing from our systems of governance are young people of color and their families.

Young people understand that elections matter. In 2018, young people turned out in record numbers in California and across the country to vote. In California, youth of color voter turnout increased by over 450% compared to 2014. Since voter pre-registration began in 2016, more than 500,000 California teens have taken advantage of the program, according to the California Secretary of State. Young people are already politically engaged with and mobilizing around the most important issues of our time. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

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Parents United for Public Schools believes in a deeply democratic public school system which empowers those most impacted to play an integral role in the decision-making process. None are more impacted than our students, and they deserve to have a vote in who represents them on the school board. Young people across the country and the world have demonstrated that they are engaged and ready to lead us into the future. In these uncertain times, decisions will be made that greatly shape the future of public education, and our Oakland youth are engaged and ready to participate. Let's give them a voice.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,



Kim Davis

Parents United for Public Schools

PARENTS UNITED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
<https://ousdparentsunited.wordpress.com/>
@parentsuniteoak



Oakland Youth Vote Letter of Support

April 27, 2020

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City of Oakland

Alan Yee, Esq.
Siegel Yee & Brunner

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17-year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC) is committed to supporting like-minded partners in pursuit of achieving social justice for our shared communities. AYPAL and Justice 4 Oakland Students have spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Saly Lee
Executive Director
Oakland Asian Cultural Center

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC) builds vibrant communities through Asian and Pacific Islander (API) arts and cultural programs that foster intergenerational and cross-cultural dialogue, understanding, collaboration, and social justice.

CENTROLEGAL DE LA RAZA

April 27, 2020

Esteemed Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot.

OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give the electorate the chance to give 16 and 17-year old youth the right to vote in Oakland School Board elections. *Studies show that enfranchising around 8,000 Oakland teens will expand democratic participation, boost voter turnout for parents, create young long-term voters, and increase OUSD's accountability to their primary constituency - students.*

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth, families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve equity for students, for generations to come.

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We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Respectfully,

Carolina Martin Ramos, Esq.

Director of Programs and Advocacy

Centro Legal de la Raza

3400 E. 12th Street

Oakland, CA 94601

cmartinramos@centrolegal.org

Dear Councilmembers,

I stand with youth leaders and am submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

As a teacher and an organizer, I have spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. I believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

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I am very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Angela Normand
Alameda County Board of Education

CITY OF OAKLAND



YOUTH LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT • 150 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 4211 • OAKLAND, CA 94612

Department of Human Services
Oakland Youth Advisory Commission

(510) 238-3245
Fax (510) 238-3320

April 27, 2020

Vice Mayor Larry Reid
Council President Rebecca Kaplan
President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb
Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember Lynette McElhaney
Councilmember Sheng Thao
Councilmember Noel Gallo
Councilmember Loren Taylor

Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Standing with Oakland's Youth Leaders - Letter of Support for OYV

Dear Members of the City Council:

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland's young people and will give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well.

The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivan Garcia". The script is fluid and cursive.

Ivan Garcia, CD4
Oakland Youth Advisory Commission Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Salop". The script is fluid and cursive.

Benjamin Salop, CD1
Oakland Youth Advisory Commission Co-Chair

CC: Mayor Libby Schaaf

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well.

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Sincerely,



Justine Santos
Organizing Director, Californians for Justice

AFT Local 1603, AFL-CIO

Peralta Federation of Teachers

Democracy in Education, Education for Democracy



500 East Eighth Street, Suite B • Oakland, CA 94606-2825 • (510)763-8820 • fax: (510)763-1140 • union@pft1603.org

April 27, 2020

Vice Mayor Larry Reid
Council President Rebecca Kaplan
President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb
Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember Lynette McElhaney
Councilmember Sheng Thao
Councilmember Noel Gallo
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Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Standing with Oakland's Youth Leaders - Letter of Support for OYV

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The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

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We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Chanoski'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Chanoski, Ph.D.
President, Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT 1603

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luis Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Luis Sanchez
Executive Director



BAY RISING

570 14th Street, Suite 3
Oakland CA 94612
bayrising.org

Dear Oakland City Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of Bay Rising, a network of over 30 grassroots organization in the Bay Area. ***We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot.*** OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for co-sponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Kimi Lee

Kimi Lee
Bay Rising Director



April 28, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Laiseng Saechao
Political Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network



Board Members

April 29, 2020

SHEILA CHUNG HAGEN

Vice Mayor Larry Reid

PATRICE GUILLORY

Council President Rebecca Kaplan

DWAYNE MARSH

President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb

DERECKA MEHRENS

Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas

Councilmember Lynette McElhaney

REA PAÑARES

Councilmember Sheng Thao

Councilmember Noel Gallo

Councilmember Loren Taylor

ROBERT PHILLIPS

Chair

Oakland City Hall

1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza

CARLOS ROMERO

Treasurer

2nd Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

NONI SESSION

RE: Standing with Oakland's Youth Leaders - Letter of Support for OYV

MIYA YOSHITANI

Dear Councilmembers,

CARL ANTHONY

Emeritus

Urban Habitat enthusiastically submits this letter of support to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting and to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland's young people and will give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well.

Ellen Wu, MPH

Executive Director

2000 Franklin Street

Oakland, CA 94612

P (510) 839-9510

www.urbanhabitat.org

The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, and Kalb for meeting with the young people

and agreeing to support their measure.

Urban Habitat, through our Boards & Commissions Leadership Institute and Civic Leadership Training, supports expanding pathways to leadership for our most impacted communities. The Oakland Youth Vote initiative is a key opportunity to continue to expand our network of leaders. We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larisa'.

Larisa Casillas
Program Director, Leadership Development & Advocacy

April 27 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

The Marcus Foster Education Institute stands with youth leaders and submits this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland youth and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show similar measures create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and increase voter turn-out among the parents of young voters.

Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, MFEI's initiatives and programs have sought to ensure Oakland's students and families are supported and protected by our public systems. Our initiatives have also centered their voices toward solutions that are valued and centered in system-level decision making. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with key allies and winning concrete improvements in Oakland schools and neighborhoods. We believe the efforts of youth leaders today, to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections, will improve academic outcomes for all students for generations to come and make civic engagement tangible and more meaningful, particularly in these perilous times.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for co-sponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with young advocates and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of the Council's continued demonstration of leadership in prioritizing the health, safety and voices of Oakland's youth, families, and community members most impacted by the pandemic in these extremely challenging times

Sincerely,

Alicia Dixon

Alicia Dixon

Executive Director

Marcus Foster Educational Institute, DBA
2000 Franklin Street • Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 777-1600 • www.marcusfoster.org

Advancing systemic change and education equity for all.



April 27th, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to stand with our Oakland Youth and vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. Giving youth 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections will be an important step toward creating life-long voters, increasing voter turnout in marginalized communities, and making it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well. The fact that our youth organized and have spearheaded this campaign show that they have passion and seriousness about the issues that impact them. We need to honor that by giving them the right to vote.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nilofer Ahsan".

Nilofer Ahsan

Equity Allies for OUSD



PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND DEVELOPING YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE! 3300 Elm Street Oakland, CA 94609 Tel: (510) 594-2588 Fax: (510) 594-0667 mail@youthalive.org www.youthalive.org

April 27, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give the electorate the chance to give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in Oakland School Board elections. Studies show that enfranchising around 8,000 Oakland teens will expand democratic participation, boost voter turnout for parents, create young long-term voters, and increase OUSD's accountability to their primary constituency - students.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Tasked as Oakland's anchor organization for violence prevention, intervention, and healing, Youth ALIVE! has maintained a successful track record of implementing evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services. Our decades of experience investing in youth leaders informs our support of this effort. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve equity for students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Garcia Policy & Advocacy Manager Youth ALIVE!

HONORARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS Actor

HON. BARBARA LEE United States Representative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NADINE DE COTEAU Manager Engagement & Partnerships Apple Cupertino, CA

ALISA DEWYS Consultant Resources Global Professionals San Francisco, CA

ANGELA JENKINS Director, Strategic Initiatives External and Community Affairs Northern California Region Kaiser Permanente Oakland, CA

CAITLIN LANG Principal & Owner Liquid Form Design Oakland, CA

MICHAEL MUNSON Operations Manager KTOP-TV10 Oakland, CA

KRISTA REINHARD Marketing Consultant Oakland, CA

RAFAEL VAQUERANO Director, Ambulatory Integration and Access Alameda Health System Oakland, CA

STAN WEISNER, PH.D. Director Behavioral & Biological Sciences UC Berkeley Extension Berkeley, CA

EMERITUS

HON. NANCY SKINNER Senator California State Legislature Oakland, CA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE MARKS Executive Director Youth ALIVE! Oakland, CA



April 27th, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turnout in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

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Sincerely,

Clarissa Doutherd
Executive Director
Parent Voices Oakland

April 27, 2020

Dear Oakland City Council Members,

I write on behalf of Educators for Democratic Schools in support of placing Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot.

Our organization is composed of current and retired Oakland educators as well as others who have committed most of their working lives to the students and communities served by the Oakland Unified School District. Most of our own children attended Oakland public schools.

We stand with youth leaders in **encouraging you to vote YES on OYV at the May 5th** Council meeting. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

We created EDS to support democratically controlled public schools in the face of privatization. We believe true public schools are one of the cornerstones of democracy. Oakland Youth Vote is a step toward increasing democracy and equity by giving constituents most affected the right to have their voices heard. We are highly concerned with the issues of quality, equity and representation of the community in OUSD. Studies show measures like this create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely that parents of young voters will vote as well.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Council Members Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Council Members Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Filloy
Leadership Committee, Educators for Democratic Schools
OUSD Teacher—35 yrs, Retired
Mother of 2 OUSD Graduates

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGAL OUTREACH

April 28, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

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Sincerely,

Bianca Mabute-Louie

blouie@apilegaloutreach.org

Youth Program/Social Services Manager

API Legal Outreach - Oakland

Oakland Youth Vote Letter of Support



Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well.

Since 2007, All City Council has been leading campaigns to meaningfully engage students through increased student leadership infrastructures in OUSD, positive culture and climate, and student and adult partnerships. Through our role within OUSD, ACC directly engages and trains thousands of students every year to participate in understanding how to be a part of leadership at their school sites and at a district level. We now have more students serving in our school site councils. Students advocated for Oakland to be the first district that added students to the LCFF's LCAP Advisory Committee. We have a functioning district wide student union that has given student voice to the OUSD budget, superintendent interview, new teacher training, culture and climate committees, credit recovery, pathways, school improvement measures, health and wellness initiatives, school safety, and so much more.

All City Council have spent years working to address internalized, interpersonal, and institutional oppression in our daily lives and the daily functioning of our schools and working toward solutions. We focus on ensuring our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

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We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Linh Le, President of All City Council Student Union

Oakland High School, Class of 2023



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Northern
California

April 27, 2020

Vice Mayor Larry Reid
Council President Rebecca Kaplan
President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb
Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney
Councilmember Sheng Thao
Councilmember Noel Gallo
Councilmember Loren Taylor

Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Oakland Youth Vote - SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Oakland City Council:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California is proud to support and stand with Oakland's youth leaders and encourages you to vote in favor of placing Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland's young people and will give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote in Oakland's school board elections.

Young voters are key stakeholders in our democracy: they are increasingly active, engaged, and informed participants in civic and political efforts and are dedicated to improving our communities. This is embodied by the work of the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission, which has spent years working to ensure Oakland's most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in our democracy. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods.

OYV promotes civic engagement by allowing young members of our community to form a habit of voting from an early age. OYV would enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections, creating an opportunity for early involvement in the voting process, which in turn has the potential to increase registration and turn out rates amongst young voters. Oakland's young voters are important members of our communities and OYV would rightfully grant them an opportunity to become involved in matters that affect them personally.

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Abdi Soltani • BOARD CHAIR Magan Pritam Ray

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE: 39 Drumm St. San Francisco, CA 94111 • FRESNO OFFICE: PO Box 188 Fresno, CA 93707
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Page 2 of 2
April 27, 2020

For all of these reasons, the ACLU of Northern California supports placing Oakland Youth Vote on the November 2020 ballot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Fletes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Christina E. Fletes-Romo
Voting Rights Attorney



Youth Together

Building Just Communities Through Multiracial Leadership Development and Organizing

1714 Franklin Street #100-153 Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 992-3871

April 27th, 2020

Dear City of Oakland Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will provide the opportunity for 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families, and workers - are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will give them agency to improve academic quality and outcomes for all students, for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,



Tony Douangviseth
Executive Director



April 27, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year-olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

Our organization has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth and families are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve equity for all students for generations to come.

Thank you to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure. Thank you to Councilmembers Gallo, McElhaney, Thao, Kalb, and Reid for meeting with the young people and agreeing to support their measure.

We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Lukas Brekke-Miesner
Executive Director
Oakland Kids First



April 27, 2020

Vice Mayor Larry Reid
Council President Rebecca Kaplan
President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb
Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember Lynette McElhaney
Councilmember Sheng Thao
Councilmember Noel Gallo
Councilmember Loren Taylor

Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Standing with Oakland's Youth Leaders - Letter of Support for OYV

Dear Members of the Oakland City Council:

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland's young people and will give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters to vote as well.

The Oakland Youth Advisory Commission has spent years working to ensure our most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in a real democracy where their voices and solutions are valued and centered. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods. We believe their effort to enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections will improve academic outcomes for all students, for generations to come.



The Afrikan Black Coalition is a statewide student-led organization founded in 2003. The Afrikan Black Coalition has served students, families, and schools in Oakland and throughout the state of California. Providing the right for youth to vote in school board elections furthers our interests in youth empowerment and community engagement.

We acknowledge and thank the Oakland Youth Commission and their staff for their leadership in this initiative; to Council President Kaplan for authoring Oakland Youth Vote; and to Councilmembers Bas and Taylor for cosponsoring the measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allyssa Victory", written over a horizontal line.

Allyssa Victory
Director, Black Community Programs



National Lawyers Guild - San Francisco
558 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA, 94110



April 30th, 2020

Dear Councilmembers,

We stand with youth leaders and are submitting this letter of support - to encourage you to vote YES at the May 5th Council meeting - to place Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November, 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland young people and will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in School Board elections. Studies show measures like this will create life-long voters, increase voter turn-out in marginalized communities, and make it more likely for the parents of young voters, to vote as well.

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We are very appreciative of everything you are doing in these difficult times to prioritize all of the youth, families, and community members most impacted by this pandemic in our city.

Sincerely,

Sara Kershner
Executive Director
National Lawyers Guild - San Francisco