

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 3, 2015.

Existing Law

Article XVII of the Charter defines “voter” as “an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law.” State law provides: “Any person who will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election is eligible to register and vote at that election.” Cal. Elec. Code § 2000(b); see *also* Cal. Const., art. II, § 2.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal would amend the Charter’s definition of “voter,” for the purpose of municipal elections, to be “any person who is at least 16 years old, meets all the qualifications for voter registration in accordance with state law other than those provisions that address age, and is registered to vote with the Department of Elections.”

Background Information

On January 5, 2015, the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted a resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco’s legal voting age to sixteen.

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