

File No. 150267

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 31

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: _____
Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: _____
Date: May 3, 2016

Cmte Board

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth Commission Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Form 126 – Ethics Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter |
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OTHER

(Click the text below for a direct link to the document)

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Charter Amendment Second Draft</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Controller Cost Analysis Memo - June 5, 2015</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Planning CEQA determination - March 24, 2015</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Youth Commission Memo and Resolution No.1415-AL-04</u>
<u>April 6, 2015</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Youth Commission Report</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Vote16SF Fact Sheet - March 6, 2015</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Youth Commission Rules Committee Presentation - June 8, 2015</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Comment Letter</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Prepared by: John Carroll
Prepared by: _____

Date: April 29, 2016
Date: _____

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

2
3 **Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco, to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at**
5 **an election to be held on November 8, 2016.**

6
7 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City
8 and County, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, a proposal to amend the Charter of
9 the City and County by revising Article XVII, to read as follows:

10 NOTE: **Unchanged Charter text and uncodified text** are in plain font.
11 **Additions** are *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Deletions** are ~~*strike-through italics Times New Roman font*~~.
13 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Charter
14 subsections.

15 **ARTICLE XVII: DEFINITIONS**

16 For all purposes of this Charter, the following terms shall have the meanings specified
17 below:

18 "Business day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday on which
19 governmental agencies are authorized by law to close.

20 "Confirm" or "confirmation" shall mean the approval by a majority of the members of the
21 Board of Supervisors.

22 "Discrimination" shall mean violations of civil rights on account of race, color, religion,
23 creed, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability or medical condition, political affiliation,
24 sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or domestic partners status, gender identity, parental status,
25 other non-merit factors, or any category provided for by ordinance.

///
25

1 "Domestic partners" shall mean persons who register their partnerships pursuant to the
2 voter-approved Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

3 "Elector" shall mean a person registered to vote in the City and County.

4 "For cause" shall mean the issuance of a written public statement by the Mayor
5 describing those actions taken by an individual as a member of a board or commission which are
6 the reasons for removal, provided such reasons constitute official misconduct in office.

7 "General municipal election" ~~shall mean the election for local officials or measures to be~~
8 ~~held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November~~
9 ~~in every year until and including 2015. Thereafter, "general municipal election" shall mean the~~
10 election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday
11 immediately following the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years and in every
12 fourth year following 2015. For the purpose of this definition, "local officials" shall include the
13 Assessor-Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Mayor, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer,
14 and members of the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and Governing Board of the
15 Community College District.

16 "Initiative" shall mean (1) a proposal by the voters with respect to any ordinance, act or
17 other measure which is within the powers conferred upon the Board of Supervisors to enact, any
18 legislative act which is within the power conferred upon any other official, board, commission or
19 other unit of government to adopt, or any declaration of policy; or (2) any measure submitted to
20 the voters by the Mayor or by the Board of Supervisors, or four or more members of the Board.

21 "Notice" shall mean publication (as defined by ordinance), and a contemporaneous filing
22 with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or other appropriate office.

23 "One-third," "a majority" or "two-thirds" of the Board of Supervisors or any other board
24 or commission of the City and County shall mean one-third, a majority or two-thirds of all
25 members of such board or commission.

1 "Published" shall have the meaning ascribed to the term by the Board of Supervisors by
2 ordinance. The Board of Supervisors shall seek a recommendation from the Clerk of the Board
3 of Supervisors before adopting such an ordinance.

4 "Referendum" shall mean the power of the voters to nullify ordinances involving
5 legislative matters except that the referendum power shall not extend to any portion of the annual
6 budget or appropriations, annual salary ordinances, ordinances authorizing the City Attorney to
7 compromise litigation, ordinances levying taxes, ordinances relative to purely administrative
8 matters, ordinances necessary to enable the Mayor to carry out the Mayor's emergency powers,
9 or ordinances adopted pursuant to Section 9.106 of this Charter.

10 "Special municipal election" shall mean, in addition to special elections otherwise
11 required by law, the election called by (1) the Director of Elections with respect to an initiative,
12 referendum or recall, and (2) the Board of Supervisors with respect to bond issues, election of ~~an~~
13 local officials not required to be elected at ~~the~~ a general municipal election, or an initiative or
14 referendum. For the purpose of this definition, "local officials" shall include the Assessor-
15 Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Mayor, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, and
16 members of the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and Governing Board of the
17 Community College District.

18 "Statewide election" shall mean an election held throughout the state.

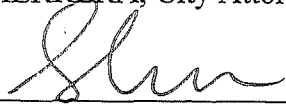
19 "Voter" shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state
20 law, except that for municipal elections, "voter" shall also mean any person who is at least 16
21 years old, meets all the qualifications for voter registration in accordance with state law other
22 than those provisions that address age, and is registered to vote with the Department of
23 Elections.

24 ///

25 ///

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
2 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

3 By:


4 ANDREW SHEN
5 Deputy City Attorney

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REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(6/8/2015, Amended in Committee)

[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 8, 2016.

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.

On June 8, 2015, the Rules Committee amended this proposal. The second draft specifies that 16 and 17-year-olds may vote in elections for members of the Board of Education for the San Francisco Unified School District and the Governing Board of the Community College District. The second draft would also seek to place the proposal on the ballot for the November 8, 2016 election.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

June 5, 2015

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File 150267 – Charter amendment authorizing 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in municipal elections

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.

The amendment could be expected to increase the number of registered voters for municipal elections by up to approximately 1% if 16 and 17 year olds register to vote at the same rate as the general population. The Department of Elections would have additional costs to produce voter materials and conduct voter education and outreach efforts for this group of voters. Spread over the four election cycle the added expense would represent only a marginal increase in Department of Elections' costs an annual basis.

Sincerely,

for *Ben Stevenson*
Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

March 23, 2015

File No. 150267

Sarah Jones
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones:

On March 17, 2015, Supervisor Avalos introduced the following proposed Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2015, Election:

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 3, 2015.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisa Somera".

By: Alisa Somera, Committee Clerk
Rules Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planner
Jeanie Poling, Environmental Planner

Not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it does not result in a physical change in the environment.

Joy
Navarrete

Digitally signed by Joy Navarrete
DN: cn=Joy Navarrete, o=Planning,
ou=Environmental Planning,
email=joy.navarrete@sfgov.org,
c=US
Date: 2015.03.24 16:33:43 -07'00'

Youth Commission
 City Hall ~ Room 345
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102-4532



(415) 554-6446
 (415) 554-6140 FAX
 www.sfgov.org/youth_commission

YOUTH COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM

TO: Alisa Somera, Rules Committee Clerk
FROM: Youth Commission
DATE: Wednesday April 7, 2015
RE: Referral response to BOS Files No. 150267

At our regular meeting of **Monday, April 6, 2015** the Youth Commission voted to support the following motion:

To support BOS File No. 150267 - Charter Amendment – Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Youth commissioners support for this legislation follows on their previous passage of Youth Commission resolution 1415-AL-04 [Urging to Lower San Francisco's Legal Voting Age to 16 years of age] on January 5, 2015.

Youth Commissioners thank the Board of Supervisors for their attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (415) 554-6446, or your Youth Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michel Li".

Chair, Michel Li
 Adopted on April 6, 2015
 2014-2015 San Francisco Youth Commission

1 [Urging to Lower San Francisco's Legal Voting Age to 16 years of age]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco's**
3 **legal voting age to sixteen in municipal and school district elections**

4 WHEREAS, Upon turning 16, young people can drive, work without limitations on
5 hours, pay taxes, take classes on government in school, are subject to adult criminal charges,
6 and yet are denied the right to vote; and

7 WHEREAS, Young people often feel excluded from being engaged in their government
8 and are underrepresented in local government; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 15, 2014, the United Nations declared 2014's International
10 Day of Democracy theme to be "Engaging Young People on Democracy," calling for countries
11 around the world to increase their efforts to engage young people in their democratic
12 processes;¹ and

13 WHEREAS, Extending voting rights to youth of 16 years of age would empower young
14 people to become engaged in our local government; and

15 WHEREAS, With the right to vote, young people would increase their knowledge and
16 interest in politics and the issues directly affecting them; and

17 WHEREAS, 16 year olds possess roughly the same political knowledge as 21 year
18 olds and come close to the average for all adults;² and

19 WHEREAS, Young people who vote will make voting habitual, as voting is a life-long
20 practice begun once one casts their first vote;³ and

21

22 ¹ The United Nations, "2014 Theme: Engaging Young People on Democracy," September 15, 2014. Accessed
23 December 6, 2014 at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>

24 ² Hart, Daniel and Atkins, Robert, "American Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Olds Are Ready to Vote." *The Annals*
25 *of the American Academy of Social Science*. Accessed December 1, 2014. Accessed at:
<http://ann.sagepub.com/content/633/1/201>

³ Elias, Dinas. "The Formation of Voting Habits." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. Accessed
December 6, 2014 at:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17457289.2012.718280?tab=permissions#tabModule>

1 WHEREAS, Young voters will be more likely to continue civic engagement throughout
2 their lives than are those who begin voting later in life;⁴ and

3 WHEREAS, Having young people voting at earlier ages would increase voter turnout in
4 future elections and further stimulate interest in getting more involved in local government
5 affairs; and

6 WHEREAS, Studies have proven 16 year old voters are competent and mature enough
7 to make well-informed decisions that will influence their lives and the broader electorate;⁵ and

8 WHEREAS, Given the current age demographics in San Francisco where the average
9 age of the electorate has risen from 44.2 in 1980 to 45.8 and is projected to 47.6 by 2025,
10 expanding the electorate is an essential step in counterbalancing this aging; and

11 WHEREAS, Young people have interests and priorities that differ from those of older
12 voters and an aging electorate may neglect the interests of more diverse younger
13 generations; and

14 WHEREAS, Between 2000 and 2013, San Francisco lost about 8,000⁶ school age
15 youth and now has the lowest percentage⁷ of kids of any major U.S. city; and

16 WHEREAS, The young people impacted by these trends are best positioned to identify
17 solutions, and their political enfranchisement is a vital step toward combating family flight; and

21 ⁴ Bhatti, Yosef, and Kasper Hansen. "Leaving the Nest and the Social Act of Voting: Turnout among First-Time
22 Voters." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 22, no. 4 (2012). Accessed December 29, 2014 at:
http://www.kaspermhansen.eu/Work/JEPOP_Bhatti&Hansen_2012_young.pdf.

23 ⁵ Hart and Atkins, see supra note 2

24 ⁶ Heather Knight, "Families' exodus leaves S.F. whiter, less diverse," *The San Francisco Chronicle*, June 10,
2013. Accessed December 12, 2014: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Families-exodus-leaves-S-F-whiter-less-diverse-3393637.php>

25 ⁷ Aaron Sankin, "Families Flee San Francisco: City Has Lowest Percentage Of Kids Of Any Major U.S. City," *The Huffington Post; San Francisco*, March 11, 2012: Accessed December 12, 2014.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/09/families-flee-san-francisco_n_1335639.html

1 WHEREAS, The city has seen fit to make investments in the leadership and civic
2 engagement of young people through DCYF's Youth Leadership and Organizing programs,
3 Youth Empowerment Fund, and annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives; and

4 WHEREAS, thousands of SFUSD high school students have cast votes in mock
5 elections and ballot measures through the Youth Vote program, gaining exposure to the
6 electoral process and civic norms and practices; and

7 WHEREAS, On Tuesday, October 14, 2014 over 90 young people attended a Young
8 Voters Forum designed to educate youth on the various issues facing San Francisco this
9 election year and incite reflection on how the ballot might impact their lives and those of their
10 peers and family; and

11 WHEREAS, A majority of the attendees at the Young Voters Forum were under 18, yet
12 meaningfully contributed to the discussion regarding several ballot measures; and

13 WHEREAS, The non-partisan event was put on by the San Francisco Youth
14 Commission, TAYSF, San Francisco Youth Warriors, Youth Leadership Institute, Peer
15 Resources, the Student Advisory Council, and Coleman Advocates; and

16 WHEREAS, Staff from the San Francisco Department of Elections was on hand at the
17 Young Voters Forum to register new voters and recruit young people to work the polls on
18 Election Day; and

19 WHEREAS, These and many other efforts by engaged local youth leaders have been
20 very fruitful, with the city benefiting from several policy and legislative campaigns initiated and
21 led by young people all around the city, including most recently an ordinance amending the
22 health code and establishing limitations for the granting of new tobacco sales permits (File No.
23 141098⁸), which was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014; and

24 _____
25 ⁸ "Ordinance amending the Health Code by adding density, proximity, and sales establishment limitations on the granting of new tobacco sales permits, and renumbering all sections in Article 19H; amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code by increasing the annual license and application fees; and making environmental

1 WHEREAS, Numerous countries—Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway and
 2 the United Kingdom—have extended the right to vote to 16 year olds in national, state, and
 3 local elections or are considering doing so, and these efforts have resulted in higher turnout
 4 among voters ages 16-17 than among voters age 18 and older; and

5 WHEREAS, In December 2010, the Lowell, Massachusetts City Council passed a
 6 resolution petitioning the Massachusetts State Legislature to lower the city's voting age to 17⁹
 7 and the petition is currently being considered by the Massachusetts State Legislature where it
 8 has garnered the support of several state lawmakers;¹⁰ and

9 WHEREAS, In May 2013, Takoma Park, Maryland became the first municipality in the
 10 United States to reduce its legal voting age to 16 years of age;¹¹ and

11 WHEREAS, Voter turnout among these newly enfranchised voters in Takoma Park was
 12 44 percent, as compared to the overall voter turnout which was 11 percent;¹² and

13 WHEREAS, The Scottish government allowed 16 and 17 year olds to vote in its
 14 referendum on declaring independence from the United Kingdom;¹³ and

18 findings," adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014. Accessed December 12, 2014:
<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=3413121&GUID=9590AFB0-D62E-4BC6-944C-3375C6D90322>

19 ⁹ United Teen Equity Equality Center (Lowell, Massachusetts), "Vote 17." Accessed December 1, 2014:
<https://www.utec-lowell.org/actnow/vote17>

20 ¹⁰ Russell Goldman, "Mass. Teens Inch Closer to Lowering Voting Age to 17," *ABC News*, April 19, 2012.
 Accessed December 1, 2014: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/mass-teens-inch-closer-lowering-voting-age/story?id=16166922>

21 ¹¹ Lindsay A. Powers, "Takoma Part grants 16-year-olds right to vote," *The Washington Post*, May 14, 2013.
 Accessed December 6, 2014: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/takoma-park-grants-16-year-olds-right-to-vote/2013/05/14/b27c52c4-bccd-11e2-89c9-3be8095fe767_story.html

22 ¹² J.B. Wogan, "Takoma Park Sees High Turnout Among Teens After Election Reform," *Governing*, November 7,
 23 2013. Accessed December 6, 2014: <http://www.governing.com/news/headlines/gov-maryland-city-sees-high-turnout-among-teens-after-election-reform.html>

24 ¹³ The Electoral Commission Lothian Chambers, 59--63 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1RN. (2014). *The*
 25 *2014 Scottish Independence Voting Guide*. Accessed December 6, 2014:
http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/170400/The-2014-Scottish-Independence-Referendum-Voting-Guide.pdf

1 WHEREAS, These 16 and 17 year old voters used this opportunity to exercise their
2 newfound right to vote en masse, with over 90 percent of 16 and 17 year old voters registering
3 to vote in the Scottish independence referendum;¹⁴ and

4 WHEREAS, Research consistently indicates 16-17 year-olds make voting decisions
5 based on reasoned consideration of their own and larger interests in a fashion similar to older
6 voters;¹⁵ and

7 WHEREAS, Resolutions adopted by both the San Francisco Youth Commission
8 (Resolution 0405-013)¹⁶ and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (File No. 051215)¹⁷ in
9 2005 supported expanding suffrage to citizens of 16 years and older in city and county
10 elections; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2014 the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted Resolution No.
12 1314—02¹⁹ that called on for the Board of Supervisors and Youth-Serving Commissions to
13 create a “Youth Voice” Policy that would allow more young people to come to testify at public
14 meetings to voice their concerns and opinions on legislation that would directly impact them;
15 and

16
17
18 ¹⁴ Eichhorn, Jan, “Will 16 and 17 year olds make a difference in the referendum?” Edinburgh: Scot Cen for Social
19 Research (2014). Accessed December 29, 2014. http://www.scotcen.org.uk/media/205540/131129_will-16-and-17-years-olds-make-a-difference.pdf

20 ¹⁵ “Voting at 16: Turnout and the Quality of Vote Choice.” *Electoral Studies* 31, no. 2 (2012). Accessed
21 December 29, 2014. [http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0261379412000212/1-s2.0-S0261379412000212-
main.pdf?_tid=1fa2eb02-9237-11e4-a398-00000aacb361&acdnat=1420172798_2b922ffa143eaa9603df4a3691b93c3e](http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0261379412000212/1-s2.0-S0261379412000212-main.pdf?_tid=1fa2eb02-9237-11e4-a398-00000aacb361&acdnat=1420172798_2b922ffa143eaa9603df4a3691b93c3e).

22 ¹⁶ San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 0405—AL013 “Resolution Urging the San Francisco Board of
23 Supervisors to Recommend to State Legislators That They Allow Local Choice, For Which City or County Could
24 Permit Persons 16 years of Age or Older to Vote In City or County Elections,” adopted June 6, 2005

25 ¹⁷ See Board of Supervisor File No. 051215—Urging State Legislators to Permit Persons 16 Years of Age or
Older to Vote in City and County Elections, Passed on July 21, 2005. Retrieved at:
<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=477237&GUID=8E3D3E05-BB1D-488F-A1D0-8F0B22AB0739&Options=ID|Text|&Search=538-05>

¹⁹ San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 1313—02 “Resolution Urging the San Francisco Board of
Supervisors and Youth-Serving Commissions to Support the Creation of a Youth Voice Policy,” adopted March
3, 2014

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors added Rule 2.12.1²⁰ to the Board
2 of Supervisors' Rules of Order in 2014, providing more opportunities for young people to
3 meaningfully participate in public meetings; and

4 WHEREAS, Many states are enacting laws designed to severely limit communities' of
5 color and young people's voting rights, rolling back gains won through a proud history of
6 struggle on behalf of African Americans and groups of young, multiracial activists; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco has an opportunity to take bold action to reverse these
8 trends and stand for the political enfranchisement of young people; and

9 WHEREAS, As stated in Section 4.124 of the San Francisco City Charter, the Youth
10 Commission is charged with identifying and proposing solutions to meet the unmet needs and
11 concerns of San Francisco youth; and

12 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission believes that young people's ability to engage in
13 electoral processes that directly impact them is an unmet need; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
15 Supervisors to lower San Francisco's city and school district voting age eligibility to 16 years
16 of age or older; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
18 Supervisors to urge San Francisco's elected state representatives—State Senator Mark Leno,
19 Assemblymembers Philip Y. Ting and David Chiu—to prepare legislation that would provide
20 for a state constitutional referendum to reduce the voting age to sixteen for all state elections;
21 and be it finally

22
23
24 ²⁰ "Motion amending the Board of Supervisors Rules of Order, by adding Rule 2.12.2, to establish
25 communication procedures for hearings on matters related to the Youth Commission." San Francisco Board of
Supervisors. Accessed December 6, 2014:
<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=3276905&GUID=8ACEC527-F5C4-4E6B-99FF-450D9B60A3BE>

1 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
2 Supervisors to prepare a charter amendment to relevant sections of the San Francisco
3 Charter allowing citizens of 16 years of age and older to vote and register in municipal and
4 school district elections held in the City and County of San Francisco.

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Michel Li

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2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair

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Adopted by Youth Commission January 5, 2015

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PRIORITY 1: LOWER SAN FRANCISCO'S LEGAL VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Urging the Mayor and San Francisco Board of Supervisors to invest in voter turnout and the civic and political development of young people by supporting a charter amendment lowering San Francisco's legal voting age to sixteen

BACKGROUND

Robust voter participation is at the core of a healthy democracy. However, the United States enjoys a far lower voter turnout rates than other established democracies, only 60% during presidential elections and 40% during midterm elections, as compared to 80% in Austria, Sweden, and Italy and 90% in Australia, Belgium, and Chile.¹ The 2014 elections showed the lowest voter turnout since World War II with the lowest numbers of all amongst voters under age 30. San Francisco is no exception to these trends. Our exciting November 2014 ballot won turnout from only 53% of registered voters. San Francisco's November 2013 ballot saw participation from less than 30% of registered voters.²

Democratic participation and political enfranchisement strengthen our democracy. Indeed, voters demonstrated their commitment to the ideals of democratic representation and participation when they voted to create the San Francisco Youth Commission over nineteen

years ago. Since that time, the San Francisco Youth Commission has advised the City on the unmet needs of youth. We are currently witnessing an ongoing diminishment of the share of our City's population made up of youth and families. At the same time, we are staring down problems that were not of young people's making, but which we will be required to solve – from climate issues like water scarcity, to economic threats, like the rising costs of college tuition and housing. It is the Youth Commission's firm contention that we need all hands on deck to face these challenges – that means we need young people to begin developing their civic leadership and participation now – not later.

In January 2015, the San Francisco Youth Commission passed a resolution urging for the extension of voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in municipal and school district elections. The 2015 resolution followed upon previous resolutions adopted in 2005 by both the San Francisco Youth Commission³ and the San

¹Fair Vote, The Center for Voting and Democracy, "Voter Turnout," Retrieved from: <http://www.fairvote.org/research-and-analysis/voter-turnout/>.

²San Francisco Department of Elections, "Historical Voter Turnout," Retrieved from <http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1670>.

³San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 0405 – AL013. Resolution Urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to Recommend to State Legislators That They Allow Local Choice, For Which City or County Could Permit Persons 16 years of Age or Older to Vote In City or County Elections adopted June 6, 2005. Retrieved from <http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=51216>

Francisco Board of Supervisors⁴ supporting the expansion of suffrage to citizens of 16 years and older in city and county elections. The Youth Commission's 2015 resolution was passed after months of research on how extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds will boost our democracy and increase voter turnout over the long term.

Extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds is an important investment in their civic and political development. Extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds will mean more people can cast their first vote in a community where they have roots, are enrolled in school, where their parents are voters, and where they may be more interested in voting than those who are just two years older.

Research shows that voting is habitual, and that once a young person casts their first vote, they will continue voting.⁵ Additionally, the earlier someone starts voting, the more likely they are to be a lifelong voter.⁶ Many young people encounter major transitions at age 18, which can make it a challenging year to establish new voting habits. As a result, voter turnout among eligible voters under 30 is lower than any other age group. By contrast, when given the chance to vote, 16 and 17 year

olds register and turn out at greater rates than older voters. This has been confirmed in other countries that allow teens to vote (Norway, Germany, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, and Austria) as well as in U.S. cities that have extended voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds like Takoma Park, Maryland and the Chicago 2014 primaries.⁷

16 and 17 year olds are absolutely capable of understanding politics. Research shows that 16-year-olds' political knowledge is about the same as 21-year-olds' and quite close to the average for all adults.⁸ Neurologically, 16 and 17 year olds have developed the ability to logically analyze information and make responsible and informed voting choices. Research consistently indicates 16-17 year-olds make voting decisions based on reasoned consideration of their own and larger interests in a fashion similar to older voters.⁹ The high school classroom is the perfect place to engage and inform young people about the local municipal issues that impact their lives. Expanding the vote to 16 and 17 year olds will be an opportunity to promote an even deeper engagement with the civics curriculum required in our local schools.

We also know that 16 and 17 year olds are capable of forming independent ideas. In the Scottish independence referendum, 44% of

⁴ Board of Supervisor File No. 051215 – Urging State Legislators to Permit Persons 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in City and County Elections, Passed on July 21, 2005. Retrieved from <https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=2583879&GUID=7B2703EE-19B3-4EE2-8775-94A4BEB38779>.

⁵ Eric Plutzer, "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth," *The American Political Science Review* 96/1 (March 2002), pp. 41-56.

⁶ Bhatti, Yosef, and Kasper Hansen. "Leaving the Nest and the Social Act of Voting: Turnout among First-Time Voters." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 22, no. 4 (2012).

⁷ Rick Pearson, "17-year-olds voted at higher rate than parents in primary," *Chicago Tribune*, May 17, 2014; And: J.B. Wogan, "Takoma Park sees high turnout among teens after election reform," *Governing Magazine*, Nov. 7, 2013

⁸ Daniel Hart and Robert Atkins, "American Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Olds are Ready to Vote," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 63 (January 2011), pp. 201-221.

⁹ *Ibid.*

teens voted differently than their parents.¹⁰ If 16 and 17 year olds are given the right to vote, families will engage in dialogue that will lead to a more informed and engaged electorate overall. In fact, evidence suggests there is a “trickle up” effect from youth civic participation. When 16 and 17 year olds engage in civics, conversations about politics and civic life are brought home, with a positive effect on voter turnout for parents and family members of all ages. This “trickle up” also extends to the roommates and peers of those same young voters after they reach age 18.¹¹

Age sixteen holds a special significance in our society. Upon turning 16, young people can drive, work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, take classes on government in school, and are frequently subject to adult criminal charges. Despite the civic responsibilities that accrue at age 16, 16 and 17 year olds are not able to vote. Given the current age demographics in San Francisco where the average age of the electorate has risen from 44.2 in 1980 to 45.8 and is projected to 47.6 by 2025, expanding the electorate is an essential step in counterbalancing this aging and ensure the interests of younger generations are protected. Many families have left San Francisco due to the increase in home prices and inability to afford the cost of living in the city. Between 2000 and 2013, San Francisco lost about 8,000 school age youth and now has the lowest percentage of kids of any major U.S.

¹⁰ The Electoral Commission Lothian Chambers, 59–63 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1RN. (2014). *The 2014 Scottish Independence Voting Guide*

¹¹ Michael McDevitt and Spiro Kioussis, “Experiments in Political Socialization: Kids Voting USA as a Model for Civic Education Reform,” August 2006.

city.¹² The young people impacted by these trends are best positioned to identify solutions, and their political enfranchisement is a vital step toward combating family flight.

The city has seen fit to make investments in the leadership and civic engagement of young people through DCYF’s Youth Leadership and Organizing programs, the Youth Empowerment Fund, and the city’s annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives. Thousands of SFUSD high school students have cast votes in mock elections and ballot measures through the Youth Vote program, gaining exposure to the electoral process and civic norms and practices. In October 2014, 100 young people voluntarily attended a Young Voters Forum designed to educate youth on the various issues on the November ballot. A majority of the attendees at the Young Voters Forum were under 18, yet they came to reflect on how the ballot initiatives might impact their lives and those of their peers and family. The non-partisan event was put on by the San Francisco Youth Commission, TAYSF, San Francisco Youth Warriors, Youth Leadership Institute, Peer Resources, the Student Advisory Council, and Coleman Advocates. Staff from the San Francisco Department of Elections was on hand at the Young Voters Forum to register new voters and recruit young people to work the polls on Election Day.

These and many other efforts by engaged local youth leaders have been very fruitful, with the city benefiting from several policy and

¹² Heather Knight, “Families’ exodus leaves S.F. whiter, less diverse,” *The San Francisco Chronicle*, June 10, 2013. Accessed December 12, 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Families-exodus-leaves-S-F-whiterless-diverse-3393637.php>

legislative campaigns initiated and led by young people all around the city, including most recently an ordinance amending the health code and establishing limitations for the granting of new tobacco sales permits¹³, which was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014.

Numerous countries – Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom – have extended the right to vote to 16 year olds in national, state, and local elections or are considering doing so. 16 and 17 year old voting has begun in two Maryland cities and the Lowell, Massachusetts city council is petitioning the state legislature to allow them to lower the city’s voting age. In February of this year, Senator Kevin Mullin introduced a state constitutional amendment, co-authored by Senator Mark Leno, that would allow 17 year olds to vote in primary elections if they will turn 18 before the date of the general election. Senator Mullin stated the constitutional amendment “would increase political engagement and voter turnout, potentially increasing the likelihood of the individual to continue voting for years to come.”

There is a national conversation building about the political enfranchisement of young people, particularly in response to some state’s

¹³ San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Ordinance No. 259-14, Ordinance amending the Health Code by adding density, proximity, and sales establishment limitations on the granting of new tobacco sales permits, and renumbering all sections in Article 19H; amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code by increasing the annual license and application fees; and making environmental finding, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/ordinance%2014/o0259-14.pdf>.

enactment of laws designed to severely limit communities’ of color and young people’s voting rights. San Francisco has an opportunity to build on its reputation of innovation and commitment to participatory democracy by being the first major city to extend voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds.

UPDATES

On March 17, 2014, Supervisor Avalos, along with his co-sponsors Supervisors Kim, Campos, and Mar, introduced a charter amendment allowing citizens of 16 years of age and older to register and vote in municipal and school district elections held in the City and County of San Francisco.

On March 16, 2015 dozens of young people came out to a rally in support of the legislation. Since its introduction, the legislation has been the source of national news including the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and Bloomberg News. Teachers, school administrators, parent groups, elected officials, and young people have all reached out to express their support.

Discussions with the Director of the Department of Elections (DOE) have confirmed that DOE is prepared to register 16 and 17 year old voters and prepare a special ballot with the department’s current staff allocations. The estimated cost associated with each new voter is approximately \$8.50 per election. A 2/5 estimate of the 2010 census figure on the number of 15-19 year olds in San Francisco amounts to approximately 13,000 16 and 17 year olds in the city and county of San Francisco. We do not yet have estimates of how many of these young people are citizens or how many would register to vote, if given the

chance. However, initial cost projections provided by the Department of Elections indicate that preparing ballots for 5,000 new voters would cost \$42,278,24 per election. Assuming a nearly 100% turnout rate, 10,000 ballots would cost \$84,556.48 per election – indeed, a small price to pay for a big investment in our democracy.

Youth commissioners have begun discussions with SFUSD administration and members of the Board of Education about how the school district might be able to assist with voter registration and residency verification efforts, as well as how the civics and social studies curricula in SFUSD classrooms can promote the informed and responsible exercise of voting rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to put to voters the question of whether to lower San Francisco's voting age to age 16 by supporting the charter amendment lowering the City's voting age to 16 years.

Moreover, youth commissioners urge members of the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee to engage with young people active in this effort, and to familiarize themselves with the growing body of research that shows the ethical basis and practical utility of extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in order to strengthen our democracy.

Finally, the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge San Francisco's elected state representatives – State Senator Mark Leno, Assembly members Philip Ting and David Chiu – to prepare

legislation that would provide for a state constitutional referendum to reduce the voting age to sixteen for all state elections.

File No. 15D267
6/8/15 Received in
Committee



#Vote16SF Fact Sheet and FAQ's

Question: "Why should 16 and 17 year olds be allowed to vote in municipal elections?"

16-17 year olds can work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, drive cars, and be tried in adult courts. Based on the civic responsibilities that accrue at age 16--and as people who use public services and are affected by government decisions--16-17 year olds deserve a say in how government is run.

San Francisco has an aging electorate and has increasingly been losing families over the last two decades. We need young people to be directly engaged in crafting solutions for our city. Extending the vote to 16 and 17 year olds will be a positive investment in their civic and political development as lifelong voters and engaged citizens. Our democracy is stronger when more people are at the table!

Question: "Isn't there already poor turnout among young voters? Wouldn't we just be wasting our time allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote?"

Extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds is an important investment in their civic and political development. Extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds will mean more people can cast their first vote in a community where they have roots, are enrolled in school, where their parents are voters, and where they may be more interested in voting than those just two years older. And once they vote, they are likely to keep voting! By allowing citizens to cast their first vote after turning 16, cities can increase voter turnout in both the short- and long-term.

Research shows that:

- Voting is habitual. Once someone casts their first vote, they will continue voting.¹
- The earlier someone starts voting, the more likely they are to be a lifelong voter.²
- When given the chance to vote, 16 and 17 year olds register and turn out at greater rates than older voters. This has been seen in other countries that allow teens to vote (Norway Germany, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, and Austria). It

¹ Eric Plutzer, "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth," *The American Political Science Review* 96/1 (March 2002), pp. 41-56.

² Bhatti, Yosef, and Kasper Hansen. "Leaving the Nest and the Social Act of Voting: Turnout among First-Time Voters." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 22, no. 4 (2012).

was also true in Chicago's 2014 primary and in Takoma Park, MD, where 16 and 17 year olds had a four times greater turnout rate than older voters.³

- Many young people encounter major transitions at age 18, which can make it a challenging year to establish new voting habits. As a result, voter turnout among eligible voters under 30 is lower than any other group.

Question: "Are teens ready to vote? Will they really understand the issues?"

16 and 17 year olds are absolutely capable of understanding politics. The high school classroom is the perfect place to engage and inform young people on local municipal issues. Expanding the vote to 16 and 17 year olds will be an opportunity to promote an even deeper engagement with the outstanding civics curriculum in our schools.

Research shows that:

- 16-year-olds' political knowledge is about the same as 21-year-olds' and quite close to the average for all adults.⁴
- Neurologically, 16 and 17 year olds have developed the ability to logically analyze information and make responsible voting choices.⁵

Question: "Can teens really vote independently? Won't they just vote the same as their parents?"

16 and 17 year olds absolutely have independent ideas. The dialogue that families will engage in if 16-17 year olds vote will lead to a more informed and engaged electorate overall.

Research shows that:

- 16 and 17 year olds can and do vote independently from their parents. In the Scottish independence referendum, 44% of teens voted differently than their parents.⁶
- There is a "trickle up" effect on civic participation. When 16 and 17 year olds engage in civics, conversations about politics and civic life are brought home, with a positive effect on voter turnout for parents and family members of all ages.⁷

³ Rick Pearson, "17-year-olds voted at higher rate than parents in primary," Chicago Tribune, May 17, 2014; J.B. Wogan, "Takoma Park sees high turnout among teens after election reform," Governing Magazine, Nov. 7, 2013

⁴ Daniel Hart and Robert Atkins, "American Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Olds are Ready to Vote," Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, vol. 63 (January 2011), pp. 201-221.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Eichhorn, Jan (2014). Will 16 and 17 year-olds make a difference in the referendum? Edinburgh: Scot Cen for Social Research. http://www.scotcen.org.uk/media/205540/131129_will-16-and-17-years-olds-make-a-difference.pdf

⁷ Michael McDevitt and Spiro Kiouisis, "Experiments in Political Socialization: Kids Voting USA as a Model for Civic Education Reform," August 2006.

File No. 150267

4/8/15 Presented in Committee

Voting at Age 16

Expanding voting rights to 16 and 17 year old
San Franciscans

Presentation to the BOS Rules Committee
Monday, June 8, 2015



Where the effort began...

- YC and BOS passed respective resolutions in 2005
- Strong youth participation in November 2014 ballot issues
- Successful 2014 Young Voters' Forum at Balboa HS



YC'ers facilitating Minimum Wage workshop at Young Voter's Forum

Where the effort began...

- Historically low voter turnout in SF and nationally
- Youth commissioners began research in Summer 2014 and passed a resolution on expanding voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in municipal and school district elections in January 2015 after multiple readings

Enfranchisement of young voters: A growing state, national, and international conversation

- Since 2008, increased voter suppression efforts in some states; 2013 Supreme Court Decision on Sec. 5 of the Voting Rights Act
- 17 year old participation in Chicago 2014 primary
- 16 year old voting in two MD cities
- Efforts to lower the voting age in MA and VT cities
- 16 and 17 year old voting in Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway, and the UK

Voter turnout and representation: the national picture

- The US has poor voter turnout rates compared to other established democracies (40-60% versus 80-90% in other countries)
- Nationally, voter turnout is at its lowest levels since WWII
- Nationally, voters 18-29 have lowest turnout of any age group, though have increased their numbers since 2008

Voter turnout and representation: the national picture

- 85% 16-17 year old turnout in 2014 Scottish referendum
- Senator Leno co-authored state constitutional amendment to allow 17 year olds to participate in primary elections

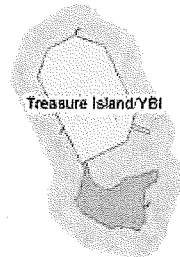


Youth turnout in force during Scottish referendum

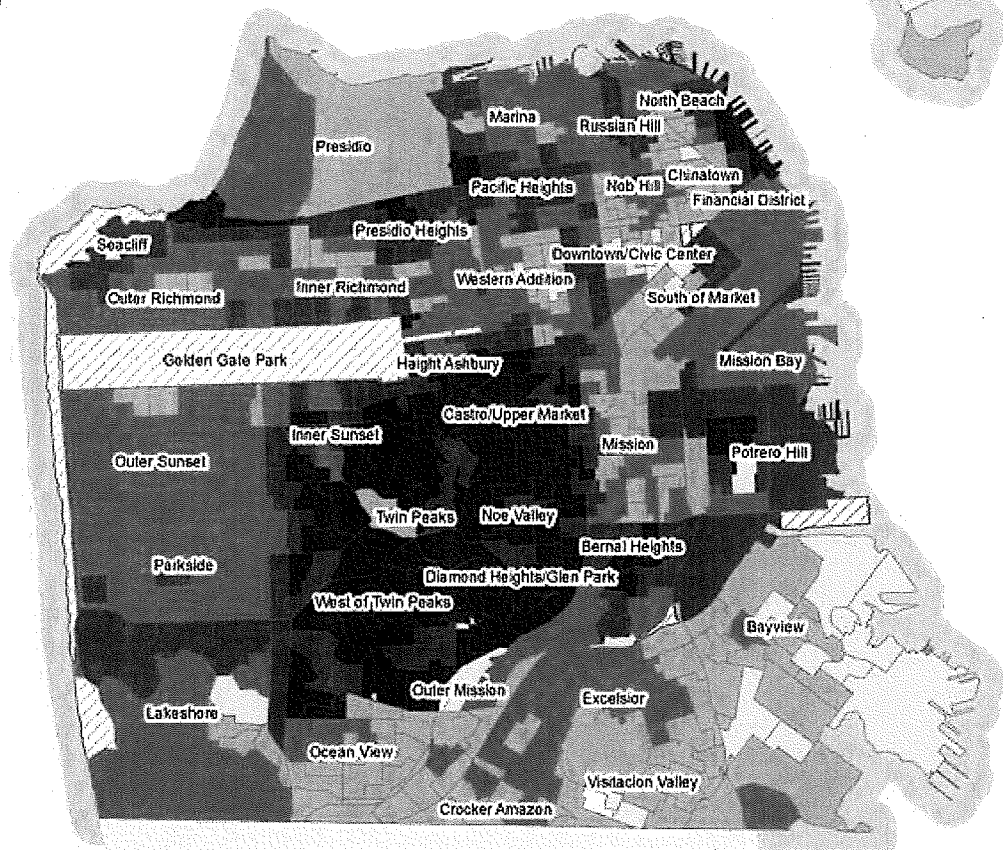
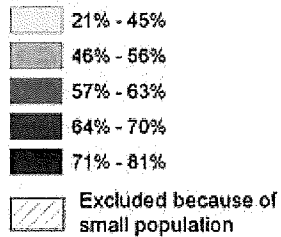
Voter turnout and representation: the local picture

- Voter turnout in SF was only 53% in Nov 2014 and 29% in Nov 2013
- In SF, voter turnout is lowest in the two neighborhoods with the highest number of youth and children: Bayview and Visitacion Valley
- Many children in SF are living in households where parents cannot vote. 35% of SF residents were born outside the U.S and 1 in 3 SFUSD students has an immigrant parent
- San Francisco has an aging electorate (currently 45.8 up from 44.2 in 1980, and projected to reach 47.6 by 2025)

Proportion of Registered Voters Voting in November, 2010 Election by Precinct



Percent of Voters that Voted in Each Precinct, 11/2010



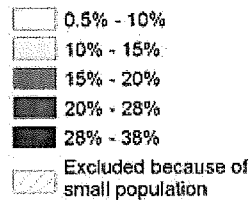
Source: San Francisco Department of Elections, November, 2010 Gubernatorial Election

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section

Available at www.theidmt.org

Proportion of Population 17 Years Old and Younger

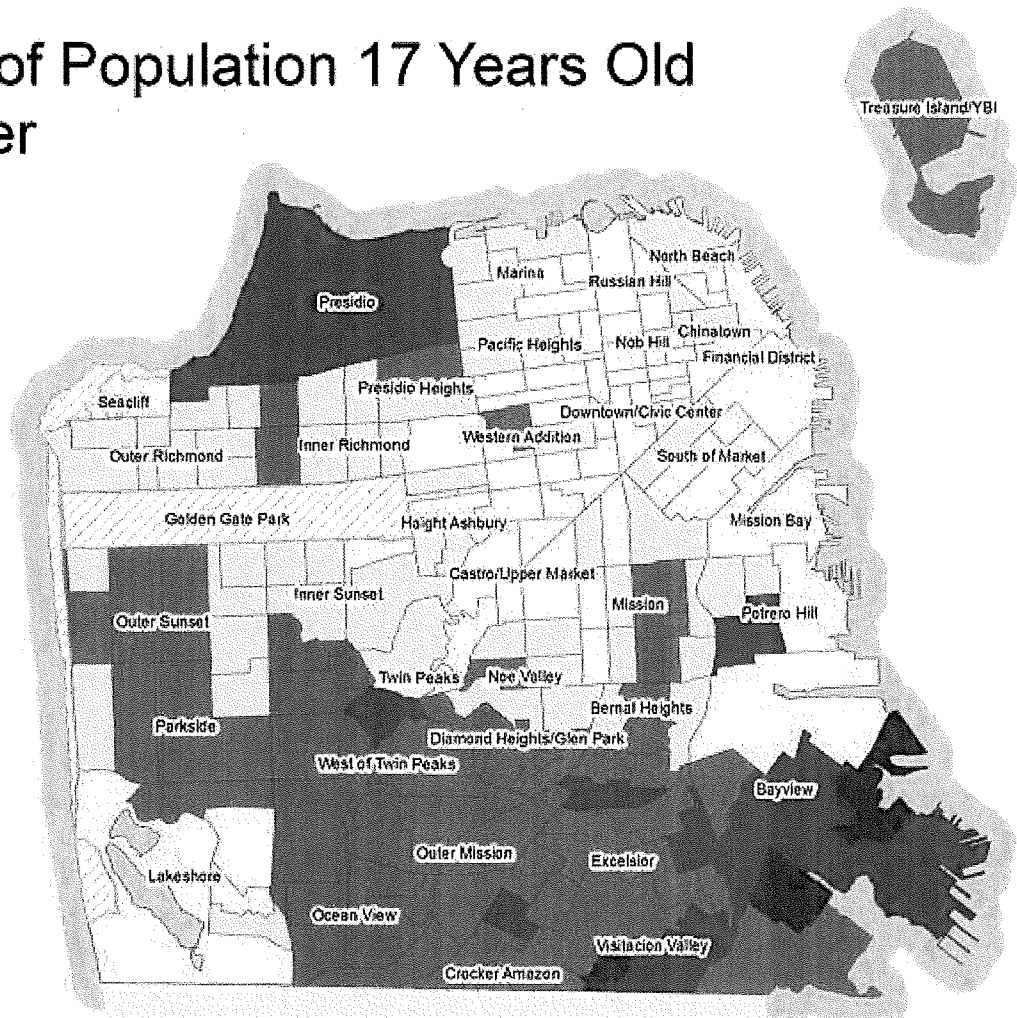
% Population Under 18 yrs



Source: US Census 2010

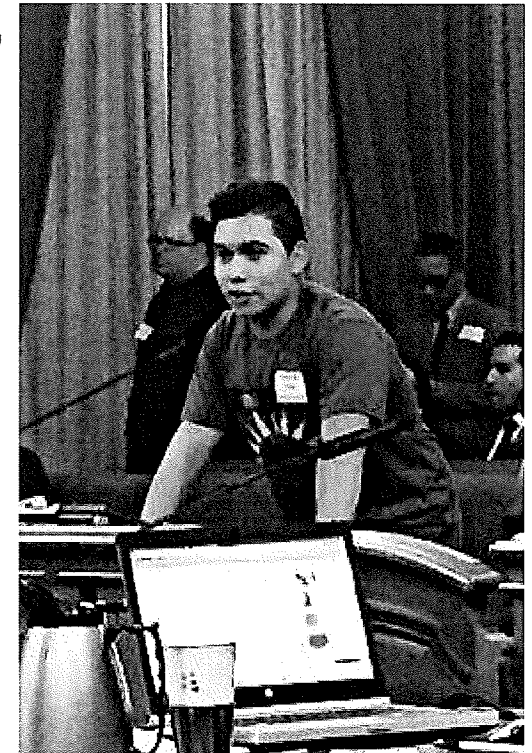
City and County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section

Available at www.thehdm.org



We count on the civic contributions of SF youth.

- Youth participated heavily in issues on the 2014 ballot: ie, Prop C, soda tax, minimum wage
- Youth initiate legislative efforts: i.e. tobacco permit legislation
- Youth lead civic engagement efforts, ie. YAD, YEF, YC
- City makes critical investments in youth leadership
- We have a diminishing number of youth and families in San Francisco at the same time as we face economic and ecological challenges that will require young people's leadership to solve
- We need all hands on deck. We need young people to begin developing their civic leadership and participation now, not later.



Why lower the voting age?

Robust voter participation is the core of a healthy democracy. San Francisco is positioned to build lifelong voters and invest in voter turnout over the long term.

We know this is a “second look” issue. We believe research shows that age 16 is a better time to begin voting than age 18.

Age 16 is a better age to begin voting than age 18.

- At age 16, young people are embedded in their communities of origin, where they know and care about local issues
- 16 and 17 year olds are enrolled in school and are living with family members who are voters. They have the opportunity to have classroom and dinner table conversations that support informed voting choices
- By comparison, age 18 is a year of intense transitions for most young people, making it a challenging time to establish new voting habits
- As a result, many young people currently do not begin voting until their late twenties

16 year old voting builds lifelong voters.

Research shows that:

Voting is habitual. Once someone casts their first vote, they will continue voting

The earlier someone starts voting, the more likely they are to be a lifelong voter

16 year old voting will increase voter turnout over the long term.

Teen voting will have a “trickle up” effect on parents and “trickle out” effect on peers, increasing voter turnout all around.

Research shows:

When 16 and 17 year olds engage in civics, conversations about politics and civic life are brought home, with a positive effect on voter turnout for parents and family members of all ages.

Voting among young voters 18+ encourages peers and roommates to register and vote.

When given the chance, 16 and 17 year olds will vote.

16 and 17 year olds register and turn out at greater rates than older voters. This has been seen in other countries that allow teens to vote (Norway Germany, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Austria).

It was also true in Chicago's 2014 primary and in Takoma Park, MD, where 16 and 17 year olds showed a four times greater turnout rate than older voters.

POLITICS

Takoma Park Sees High Turnout Among Teens After Election Reform

In the nation's first local election with 16-year-olds voting, many teens took advantage of their new right to cast a ballot this week.

BY J.B. WOGAN | NOVEMBER 7, 2013



FlickrCC/Mr. T in DC

16 and 17 year olds are prepared to vote.

Teens today have more access to knowledge and information and more outlets for debating social and political issues than ever before.

Research shows that:

- 16-year-olds' political knowledge is about the same as 21-year-olds' and quite close to the average for all adults.
- Neurologically, 16 and 17 year olds have developed the ability to logically analyze information and make responsible voting choices

Teens can and do vote independently. In the Scottish independence referendum, 44% of teens voted differently than their parents.

16 and 17 year olds deserve to vote.

Many civic responsibilities accrue at age 16. 16-17 year olds can work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, drive cars, and be tried in adult courts. As people who use public services and are affected by government decisions--16-17 year olds are ready to have a say in how government is run.

The response so far...

Since the charter amendment was introduced in March, there has been a great deal of national and local press. The New York Times, Bloomberg News, Chicago Tribune, Seattle Times, and Detroit News all published stories on the legislation.



The Chronicle editorial board did not contact youth involved with this effort. Youth commissioners have invited *Chronicle* columnists to a moderated public debate with youth leading this effort.

An issue of democratic engagement

Chronicle editorials on the legislation have framed this as a partisan issue. But this is a youth-led effort, backed by research, aimed at increasing civic participation.

16 and 17 year old voting would be good for democracy, but not necessarily for any certain political party.

- Age is not the biggest determinant of political affiliations
- Nationally, more 18-29 year olds register as democrats, but San Francisco is unique, and these national trends say little about the political preferences of young people in SF
- More than 1/3 of SF students attend private schools
- Research shows efforts to increase voter registration among high school students have led to increased registration of young voters who identify as conservative

How many 16-17 year olds are there?

Based on estimates from the census, there are approx. 13,000 16 and 17 year olds in SF, though not all would be eligible to vote. The controller estimated this would increase the electorate by 1%--a small number, but over the long term, this could have an important impact on voter turnout in San Francisco.

The opportunity before us...

San Francisco has an opportunity to build on its reputation of innovation and commitment to participatory democracy by being the first major city to extend voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds. In doing so, it would invest in the civic and political development of its young people, encourage lifelong voters, and increase voter turnout over the long term.



Thank you very much!

Questions? Comments?

For more information: www.sfgov.org/yc



Somera, Alisa (BOS)

From: Gosiengfiao, Rachel (BOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 9:59 AM
Subject: FW: General Message

-----Original Message-----

From: Randall Kovar [<mailto:leoncito9@optonline.net>]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 9:17 AM
To: Clerk, County (ADM)
Subject: General Message

Attn: To Whom this may concern,....There seems to be an attempt to lower the voting age in your city for city elections to 16. I urge the members of the Board of Supervisors or whoever to absolutely not lower the voting age. In other words I want the voting age in your municipality to stay at 18. Please e-mail me back ASAP. Thank you. Sincerely,..Randall S.Kovar

Sent from my iPhone

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nicole Elliott, Mayor's Office
Jon Givner, Office of the City Attorney
Naomi Kelly, City Administrator
LeeAnn Pelham, Executive Director, Ethics Commission
John Arntz, Director, Department of Elections
John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department
Harvey Rose, Budget and Legislative Analyst
Adele Carpenter, Director, Youth Commission

FROM: Derek Evans, Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 22, 2016

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED
November 8, 2016, Election

The Board of Supervisors pulled from Committee the following Charter Amendment for the November 8, 2016, Election, to be heard on May 3, 2016. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.4.

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

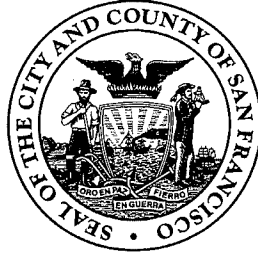
Charter Amendment (Second Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016.

Please review and submit any reports or comments you wish to be included with the legislative file.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 554-7702 or email: derek.evans@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department
Aaron Starr, Planning Department
Shaista Shaikh, Ethics Commission
Debra Newman, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
Severin Campbell, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
Gabriela Loeza, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ben Rosenfield, City Controller

FROM: Derek Evans, Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 22, 2015

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT CALLED FROM COMMITTEE
November 8, 2016, Election

The Board of Supervisors has pulled from Committee the following Charter Amendment for the November 8, 2016, Election. The matter will be heard at the May 3, 2016, Board of Supervisors regular meeting. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Elections Code, Section 305(B)(2) and Rules of Order 2.22.3.

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment – Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (Second Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016.

Please review and prepare a financial analysis of the proposed measure prior to the first Rules Committee hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at (415) 554-7702 or email: derek.evans@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: Todd Rydstrom, Deputy City Controller
Peg Stevenson, City Performance Director

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

April 22, 2016

File No. 150267

Sarah Jones
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones:

On April 19, 2016, the Board of Supervisors pulled from Committee the following proposed Charter Amendment for the November 8, 2016, Election:

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (Second Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016.

The item will be heard at the Board of Supervisors at the May 3, 2016, meeting.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

By: Derek Evans, Assistant Clerk
Rules Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planner
Jeanie Poling, Environmental Planner

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
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March 23, 2015

File No. 150267

Sarah Jones
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones:

On March 17, 2015, Supervisor Avalos introduced the following proposed Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2015, Election:

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 3, 2015.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alisa Somera".

By: Alisa Somera, Committee Clerk
Rules Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planner
Jeanie Poling, Environmental Planner

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ben Rosenfield, City Controller

FROM: Alisa Somera, Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 23, 2015

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED
November 3, 2015 Election

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2015, Election, introduced by Supervisor Avalos on March 17, 2015. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Elections Code, Section 305(B)(2) and Rules of Order 2.22.3.

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 3, 2015.

Please review and prepare a financial analysis of the proposed measure prior to the first Rules Committee hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at (415) 554-4447 or email: alisa.somera@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: Todd Rydstrom, Deputy City Controller
Peg Stevenson, City Performance Director

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nicole Elliott, Mayor's Office
Jon Givner, Office of the City Attorney
Naomi Kelly, City Administrator
John St. Croix, Executive Director, Ethics Commission
John Arntz, Director, Department of Elections
John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department
Harvey Rose, Budget and Legislative Analyst
Adele Carpenter, Director, Youth Commission

FROM: Alisa Somera, Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 23, 2015

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED
November 3, 2015 Election

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2015, Election, introduced by Supervisor Wiener on June 10, 2014. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.4.

File No. 150267 Charter Amendment - Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter to authorize 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 3, 2015.

Please review and submit any reports or comments you wish to be included with the legislative file.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 554-4447 or email: alisa.somera@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

- c: AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department
- Aaron Starr, Planning Department
- Debra Newman, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
- Severin Campbell, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
- Gabriela Loeza, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
- Allen Lu, Youth Commission
- Monica Guzman, Youth Commission

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date _____

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee.
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.
- 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).
- 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.
- 11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative

Sponsor(s):

Supervisors Avalos, Campos, Kim, Mar

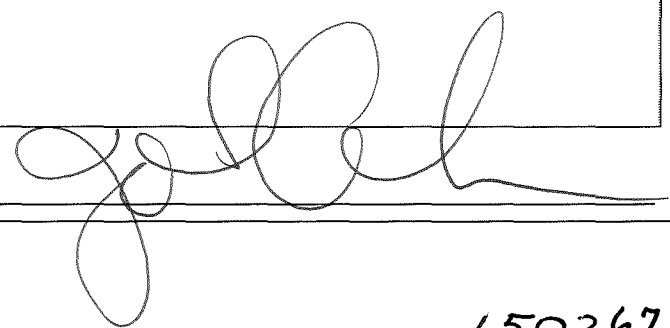
Subject:

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

The text is listed below or attached:

[Empty box for text listing]

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:



For Clerk's Use Only:

150267