

File No. 200477

Committee Item No. 5

Board Item No. 9

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Rules Committee

Date June 15, 2020

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date June 30, 2020

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OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

- Charter Amendment _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Completed by: Victor Young Date June 11, 2020

Completed by: _____ Date _____

1 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]

2
3 **Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November**
4 **3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to authorize youths**
5 **aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections.**

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 3, 2020, 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 * * * *

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

20 * * * *

21 "General municipal election" shall ~~*mean the election for local officials or measures to be*~~
22 ~~*held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November*~~
23 ~~*in every year until and including 2015. Thereafter, "general municipal election" shall*~~ mean the
24 election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday
25 immediately following the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years and in every

1 fourth year following 2015. For the purpose of this definition, "local officials" shall mean the
2 elected officials identified in Section 13.101.

3 * * * *

4 "Special municipal election" shall mean, in addition to special elections otherwise
5 required by law, the election called by (1) the Director of Elections under Section 14.101 or
6 14.103~~with respect to an initiative, referendum or recall~~, and (2) the Board of Supervisors under
7 Section 13.103 or 14.102~~with respect to bond issues, election of an official not required to be~~
8 ~~elected at the general municipal election, or an initiative or referendum.~~

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

10 "Voter" shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state
11 law, except that for general and special municipal elections, "voter" shall also mean any person
12 who is at least 16 years old, meets all the qualifications for voter registration in accordance with
13 state law other than those provisions that address age, and is registered to vote with the
14 Department of Elections.

15
16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
17 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

18 By: /s/ Andrew Shen
19 ANDREW SHEN
20 Deputy City Attorney

21 n:\legana\as2020\2000399\01446744.docx

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to authorize youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections.

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 that voters must be at least 18 years old to vote. See Cal. Const., art. II, § 2 (“A United States citizen 18 years of age and resident in this State may vote.”); Cal. Elec. Code § 2000(b) (“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.”).

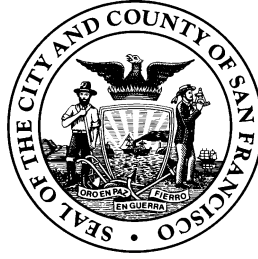
Amendments to Current Law

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

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors submitted a Charter amendment to the voters that would have authorized 16 and 17 year olds to vote in municipal elections. See File No. 150267. The measure appeared as Proposition F on the November 8, 2016 ballot, but failed to obtain the voters’ approval.

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

May 19, 2020

File No. 200477

Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On May 12, 2020, the following proposed Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2020, Election was received by the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee:

File No. 200477

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to authorize youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections; at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Young".

By: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk
Rules Committee

Attachment

c: Devyani Jain, Deputy Environmental Review Officer
Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning
Don Lewis, Environmental Planning
Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning

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

05/22/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Navarrete".



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield
Controller
Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

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

June 5, 2020

RE: File 200477 – 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.

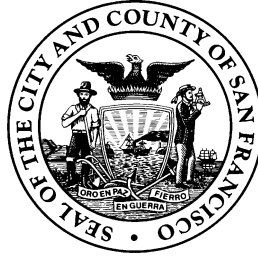
The amendment could be expected to increase the number of registered voters for municipal elections by up to approximately 1.5 percent if 16 and 17 year olds register to vote at the same rate as the general population. The Department of Elections would have some additional costs to produce voter materials. In addition it would have some costs to conduct voter education and outreach efforts for this group of voters. Spread over the four-year election cycle the added expense would represent only a marginal increase in Department of Elections' costs an annual basis.

Sincerely,

For *Natasha Mihal*
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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kiely Hosmon, Director
Youth Commission

FROM: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board by Victor Young

DATE: May 19, 2020

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors has received the following proposed legislation which is being referred to the Youth Commission as per Charter, Section 4.124 for comment and recommendation. The Commission may provide any response it deems appropriate within 12 days from the date of this referral.

File No. 200477

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to authorize youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections; at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee.

RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION Date: June 1, 2020

No Comment
[X] Recommendation Attached

Josephine Curator

Chairperson, Youth Commission

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: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee
FROM: Youth Commission
DATE: Tuesday, June 2, 2020
RE: Referral response to BOS File No. 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]

At our **Monday, June 1, 2020, meeting**, the Youth Commission unanimously voted to support the following motion:

BOS File No. 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]

Youth Commissioners thank Board President Yee for utilizing the Youth Commission’s original [Resolution 1819-AL-14 \[Lower San Francisco’s Legal Voting Age to 16 Years of Age\]](#) and creating a charter amendment for the November 2020 ballot.

Youth Commissioners thank the Board of Supervisors for their attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (415) 554-6446, or your Youth Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josephine Cureton".

Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on June 1, 2020
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission



Vote16SF: Expanding Voting Rights to 16 and 17 year-olds in San Francisco

File No. 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]

San Francisco Youth Commission Presenters: Ariana Arana, D9 Youth Commissioner; Sarah Ginsburg, Mayoral Youth Commissioner; Sarah Cheung, D1 Youth Commissioner

**June 15, 2020
Rules Committee**



History of Vote16 Movement in San Francisco

- **2016 Vote16SF campaign**
 - Ballot measure only lost by 2.8%

- **2020 Vote16 campaign**
 - 30 community organizations, 14 elected officials (10 Supervisors), 2 political clubs, 1 neighborhood association
 - Media: Examiner, Chronicle, SF Public Press, Teen Vogue
 - More emphasis on community outreach this time around



Why This Matters Now?

- Young people mobilizing right now for Black Lives Matter (ex. Mission High youth led protest, Golden Gate Bridge youth led march)
- Young people creating a movement, not a moment
- Young people are actively calling for defunding of police and accountable policy action. 16 & 17 year olds need a democratic way to participate - voting is one solution
- Young people will be most impacted by the current COVID-19 global pandemic: impacts on school, employment, finances, housing, health, etc.



Why expand the voting age?



16 and 17 year olds deserve to vote locally

- Many civic responsibilities accrue at age 16. Work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, drive cars, and play key roles in their communities.
- As people who use public services and are affected by policy decisions, 16-17 year olds are ready to have a say in government decisions.
- Young people are uniquely impacted by the fallout of COVID-19. Setbacks in education will widen the achievement gap, and they have the longest to live with the impacts of a recession. 16- and 17-year-olds deserve a voice on the decisions that will shape the recovery.
- Nationally, 13% of grocery workers (essential during COVID-19) are 16-19.



An issue of equity

- 16- and 17-year-olds in SF are predominantly people of color, and are less likely to establish voting habits.
- 1 out of 3 SFUSD students has an immigrant parent.

16- and 17-year-olds vs overall population in SF, by race		
	16 and 17	Overall
Asian American	39%	34%
Black or African American	9%	5%
Hispanic or Latinx	23%	15%
White (European descent)	23%	40%
Two or more races	5%	5%



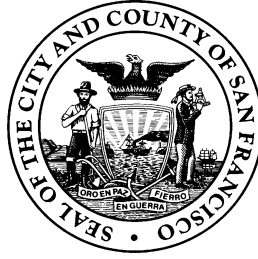
16 is a better age to begin voting than 18

- Voting is a **habit**. 16 is a better time than 18 to establish that habit.
- Age 18 is a year of big transitions for most young people, making it a challenging time to establish new voting habits.
- Those who vote in one election are 25% more likely to vote in the next one. Voting at 16 would make lifelong voters.
- At age 16, young people are embedded in their communities where they know and care about local issues.
- 16 and 17 year olds have the opportunity to have classroom, peer, and family conversations that support informed voting choices.



Questions?

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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May 19, 2020

File No. 200477

Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:

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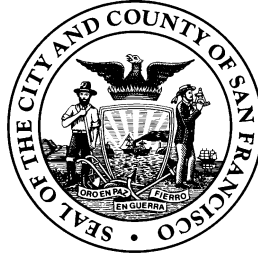
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By: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk
Rules Committee

Attachment

c: Devyani Jain, Deputy Environmental Review Officer
Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning
Don Lewis, Environmental Planning
Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ben Rosenfield, City Controller, Office of the Controller

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victor Young".

DATE: May 18, 2020

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED
November 3, 2020 Election

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2020, Election. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.3.

File No. 200477

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to authorize youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections; at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.

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) 554-7723 or email: victor.young@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please email or 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
Natasha Mihal, City Services Auditor

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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c: Todd Rydstrom, Deputy City Controller
Peg Stevenson, City Performance Director
Natasha Mihal, City Services Auditor

From: [BOS Legislation. \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Kilgore, Preston \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation. \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Sup. Preston Co-sponsor Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:47:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you Preston. Looping in the Rules Committee clerk, Victor for processing.

Lisa Lew

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
T 415-554-7718 | F 415-554-5163
lisa.lew@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services.



Click [here](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation, and archived matters since August 1998.

***Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors' website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: Kilgore, Preston (BOS) <preston.kilgore@sfgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:38 AM
To: BOS Legislation, (BOS) <bos.legislation@sfgov.org>
Cc: Low, Jen (BOS) <jen.low@sfgov.org>
Subject: Sup. Preston Co-sponsor Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections

Good Morning,

Please add Supervisor Preston as a co-sponsor of “Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections” File No. 200477

Please send confirmation.

Thanks,
Preston

From: [Lia Salaverry](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Youth Vote 16
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:22:16 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

As Co-President of the [San Francisco Women's Political Committee](#) (SFWPC) I am writing to urge you to support BOS File No: 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections].

Since 2002, SFWPC has worked to endorse, elect and empower women and young people in SF by engaging them in all aspects of the political process.

We are deeply concerned about our city. Rampant inequality continues to disproportionately impact poor people and BIPOC, displacing lifelong residents and exacerbating homelessness. In recent weeks, [we've seen thousands of young people exert their leadership, demanding justice for state-sponsored violence](#). These youth are powerful, courageous and talented, and are clearly demonstrating how they are willing and capable of taking a leadership role in this historic moment.

It is time we acknowledged these young leaders by allowing them the chance to vote in municipal elections, to further engage them in the political process. This is a goal of SFWPC, and why we are proud to support Vote 16.

SFWPC fully endorses Vote 16 and encourages the SFBOS to support their effort and stand up for the next generation of leaders. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Best,

Lia Azul Salaverry
c: [415.769.6285](tel:415.769.6285)

Co-President
San Francisco Women's Political Committee
<http://www.sfwpc.org/>

[Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

From: [Lauren Roger](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Rules Committee - Vote16SF
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:02:04 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Victor,

Hi, my name is Lauren and I am on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Women's Political Committee. As a San Francisco native, I'm concerned about the lack of representation for 16 and 17-year olds in this city, even though they want to be politically active. Local political decisions have great influence on the lives of 16- and 17-year-olds: public transportation, school funding, jobs, police policies, parks and recreation, and more.

I am supporting the charter amendment to expand voting rights to 16 & 17 year olds in municipal elections because research shows that 16-year-olds have requisite civic knowledge and skills, and have the mental reasoning ability necessary to make informed choices.

Vote16 will allow 16 and 17 year olds to exercise their voice on issues that impact their future. Voting is habitual, and 16 is a much better time than 18 to establish the habit of voting. At 18, people are in a state of transition that makes it less likely they will vote. At 16, young people can establish the habit of voting in a more stable environment, supported by family, peers, and teachers.

I urge you to support BOS File No: 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections]. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Lauren Roger

--

Lauren Roger
c: [415.290.9491](tel:415.290.9491) / [LinkedIn](#)

Membership Chair
San Francisco Women's Political Committee
<http://www.sfwpc.org> / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

From: [Linda Liu](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for BOS File No: 200477
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:10:28 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

My name is Linda and I am on the board of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee. I am supporting the charter amendment to expand voting rights to 16 & 17 years old in municipal elections because in places that have lowered the voting age to 16 and tracked the data, 16- and 17-year-olds have consistently turned out at higher rates than 18-20 years old. I urge you to support BOS File No: 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections].

Sincerely,
Linda Liu

--

Treasurer
San Francisco Women's Political Committee
<http://www.sfwpc.org/Facebook> / [Twitter](#)

From: [Dakshina Thanky](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Vote16SF
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:52:57 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi my name is Dakshina Thanky. I am a law student at the University of San Francisco and live in District 11.

As a San Francisco resident involved in local politics , I am concerned about the youth in my community who are very active and involves in their communities but have no voice or representation through our City's voting system.

I am supporting the charter amendment to expand voting rights to 16 & 17 year old's in municipal elections because voting should be encouraged at the age of 16 because it fosters belief in our democratic process and gets the youth in the habit of voting early on.

Vote16 will allow 16 and 17 year old's to exercise their voice on issues that impact their future and there are numerous issues such as education, nutrition, and transportation, etc. that the youth encounters in this City in their daily lives. To exclude this class of people would be leaving out valuable viewpoints and perspectives that will help make our City better for all of our residents.

I urge you to support BOS File No: 200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections].

Dakshina Thanky

J.D. Candidate 2021

University of San Francisco School of Law

duthanky@dons.usfca.edu

415.629.2500

Pronouns: she/her/hers