



Northern
California

June 29, 2020

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**Re: Vote16 Charter Amendment -
SUPPORT**

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Supervisors:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California (ACLU of Northern California) is proud to support and stand with San Francisco’s youth leaders and respectfully asks that you vote in favor of placing the Vote16 Charter amendment (“Vote16”) on the November 2020 ballot. Vote16 would allow young people aged 16 and 17 to cast their ballots in municipal elections and has been the culmination of years of dedication and work by San Francisco’s youth.

Sixteen and seventeen year olds are key stakeholders in our democracy: they are active, engaged, and informed participants in civic and political efforts. San Francisco youth are strong community leaders. This leadership is embodied by the work of the Vote16 campaign and the San Francisco Youth Commission; as well as by the hundreds and thousands of young people leading actions and demanding change after the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery. Young people serve a vital role in our democracy, and their leadership and vision are undeniable in San Francisco. Vote16 would allow these young leaders the opportunity to have a say in matters that affect them personally.

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California

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Further, Vote16 would create an opportunity to form lifelong voters by allowing young members of our community to begin voting at 16 in local elections. Early involvement in the voting process is likely to increase registration and turn out rates amongst young voters. Vote16 is therefore an important opportunity to increase civic participation.

For all of these reasons, the ACLU of Northern California supports placing Vote16 on the November 2020 ballot and we urge you to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Fletes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina E. Fletes-Romo
Voting Rights Attorney