

1 [Resolution Urging the Board of Supervisors to Support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10,
2 Allowing 17 year Olds to Vote in State Elections]

3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in support of assembly**
4 **constitutional amendment 10 (ACA-10), which would allow 17 year olds to vote in state**
5 **elections and would promote youth becoming involved in matters that affect them and promote**
6 **early civic engagement.**

7 WHEREAS, the twenty-eighth Assembly District Assemblymember, Evan Low, has introduced
8 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) which would lower the voting age from 18 years-old
9 to 17 years-old in the state of California; and
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11 WHEREAS, a majority of members of the Board of Supervisors supported 16 and 17 year-old
12 municipal voting rights in 2016; and

13 WHEREAS, 17 year olds are as politically knowledgeable as 21 year olds, and are close to the
14 average for all adults;¹ and

15 WHEREAS, research shows that the earlier in life one votes, the more likely they are to
16 become a lifelong voter^{2 3}; and

17 WHEREAS, while some in America attempt to take away people’s voting rights, we in San
18 Francisco stand with many across California and the United States to increase civic engagement and
19 voter turnout, especially in marginalized communities; and
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23 ¹ Hart, Daniel and Atkins, Robert, “American Sixteen- and Seventeen-Year-Olds Are Ready to Vote.” The Annals
24 of the American Academy of Social Science. Accessed December 1, 2014. Accessed at:
<http://ann.sagepub.com/content/633/1/201>

25 ² The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts
University. www.civicyouth.org

³ 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).

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WHEREAS, two localities- Takoma Park and Hyattsville, Maryland now allow 16 and 17-year olds to vote in their municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Berkeley passed a law allowing 16 and 17-year olds to vote in their elections for school board; and

WHEREAS, “strong youth electoral participation is critical to achieving a fully representative democracy;”⁴ and

WHEREAS, most high school age youth establish contact with the political process in their high school government class or through volunteering on campaigns for community service credit; and

WHEREAS, many 18-year olds are usually in a time of transition –graduating from high school, going to college, or getting a job and may therefore find it difficult to first establish new voting habits; and

WHEREAS, “people who vote at an early age are more likely to stay engaged and vote in later elections;”⁵ and

WHEREAS, that by lowering the voting age from 18-years old to 17-years old, ACA 10 will promote youth becoming involved in matters that affect them personally and promote early civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, that lowering the voting age to 17-years old will engage youth at a time when they are still connected to their schools, their homes, and their communities; now be it finally

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA-10).

⁴ Assemblyman Constitutional Amendment 10: Voting Age Low Fact Sheet

⁵ Path to the Polls: Preregistering California’s Youth to Build a More Participatory Democracy. Alana Miller, Frontier Group Emily Rusch, CALPIRG Education Fund Rosalind Gold and Ofelia Medina, NALEO Educational Fund. September 2016: <http://calpirgedfund.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/CALPIRG%20NALEO%20-%20Path%20to%20the%20Polls%20-%20Sept%202016.pdf>