San Francisco Youth Commission
Civic Engagement Committee
Minutes – Draft
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
6:00 PM

Held via Videoconference
(remote public access provided via teleconference)

Members: Steven Hum (Co-Chair), Maureen Loftus (Co-Chair), Vanessa Pimentel, Ewan Barker Plummer, Astrid Utting, Yena Im

Present: Steven Hum (Co-Chair), Maureen Loftus (Co-Chair), Vanessa Pimentel, Ewan Barker Plummer, Astrid Utting, Yena Im

Tardy:

Absent:

The San Francisco Youth Commission met remotely in regular session through videoconferencing, and provided public comment through teleconferencing, on Tuesday, October 18th, 2022, with Chair Steven Hum presiding.

Chair Hum calls the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance

On the call of the roll:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Present / Absent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair Loftus</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Utting</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Pimentel</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Barker Plummer</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Im</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair Hum</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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6 Present
Quorum is met.

2. Communications

Joy Zhan, staff, provides communications.

3. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Moved by Commissioner Barker Plummer, seconded by Commissioner Utting to approve today’s agenda.

No public comment.

On the motion to approve today’s agenda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Aye / Nay / Abstain / Absent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair Loftus</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Utting</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Pimentel</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Barker Plummer</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Im</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair Hum</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 ayes. This motion passes.

4. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)
   a. October 4th, 2022 (Packet Materials)

Moved by Commissioner Utting, seconded by Commissioner Im to approve October 4th, 2022 Committee meeting minutes.

No public comment.

On the motion to approve the minutes for the October 4th, 2022 Committee meeting minutes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Aye / Nay / Abstain / Absent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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...
6 ayes.
This motion passes.

Chair:
Clerk, can you please call Item Number 5?

5. **Public Comment on matters not on Today's Agenda** (2 minutes per comment)

No public comment.

6. **Committee Business** (All items to follow discussion and possible action)
   a. Team Building Activity
   b. Committee Legislative Priorities
   c. CEC-related news

A. **Team Building Activity**
   Q1: What is the most annoying habit someone can have?
   Q2: What's the best boba and best topping, and why?

B. **Committee Legislative Priorities**

  **Chair Hum**: Biggest priority: Vote16 Campaign
  **Chair Loftus**: Getting youths to register to vote - working with DoE
  **Commissioner Utting**: Starting the push for local civic engagement curriculum in schools to make sure that youths are educated, knowing that there are efforts of this will help with vote16
  **Commissioner Barker Plummer**: YC doesn't have an education committee, so the YC should work with the SFUSD SAC on this
  **Chair Loftus**: No one ever sat 18-year-olds down to explain that they can
  **Commissioner Utting**: should this be a curriculum or a week-long workshop, has been looking into other district's curriculums
  **Chair Hum**: In Government classes, the local government structure was never taught
  **Chair Loftus**: a week of curriculum/workshop is enough?
Commissioner Utting: proposing a week-long workshop for first-year students
Commissioner Barker Plummer: citywide workshop annually, and not sure what jurisdiction the YC and SAC have over curriculum
Commissioner Im: What’s in our jurisdiction? Def work with SAC. Working for Supervisors to get them talking about civic engagement
Chair Hum: Supervisors visiting the schools in their districts should be implemented to promote civic engagement.

Civic Engagement
➢ Education
  ○ Youth Policies on Education
  ○ Support for Working Families
  ○ Expanding Language Immersion in SFUSD
  ○ Expanding Mandatory Title IX Trainings
  ○ Expand Voting to BOE Student Delegates
  ○ Increasing Financial Literacy in Schools
  ○ Increasing Mental Health Resources
  ○ Support for Students applying to College
  ○ Expand Youth Input in Youth Voice in Education
  ○ Expand Opportunities for Low-Income & First-Gen Students
  ○ Support for Job Opportunities & Trainings
  ○ Bridge the Digital Divide amongst Students
  ○ Increase Student Access to Wi-Fi
  ○ Local Civic Engagement Curriculum in Schools

➢ Voter Engagement
  ○ Lowering the Local Voting Age to 16 (Vote16)
  ○ Getting Youth Pre-Registered to Vote
  ○ Improving Youth Turnout in Low-Income/Turnout Neighborhoods
  ○ Expand Voter Education Efforts
  ○ Create Voter Registration Toolkits & Social Media Posts

➢ Community & Neighborhood Outreach
  ○ Attend/Host Community Events

The committee wishes to kickstart the effort to have local civic engagement curriculum in schools. Start from having presentations at schools.

College & Career at Lowell - implementing the curriculum throughout all the classes. (something similar can be done throughout SFUSD)

C. CEC-related News

No public comment.

7. Vote16 Presentation (discussion item)
Commissioner Barker Plummer: What's the timeline for the 2016 and 2020 legislations?

No public comment.

8. **Staff Report** (Discussion Item)

Joy, staff, asked for presentation requests.

No public comment.

9. **Adjournment**

There is no further business. Meeting is adjourned at 7:10 PM.
History

● First legislation, File 150267, was introduced by Supervisor Avalos on March 17th, 2015
  ○ 9 out of 11 Supervisors voted to put it on the ballot
● 2016 Prop F lost by about 5%
● Second legislation, File 200477, was introduced by Supervisor Yee on May 12th, 2020
  ○ Unanimous vote to put it on the ballot
● 2020 Prop G lost by about by less than 1%
## Local Measure F - Youth Voting in Local Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ballots cast</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>187,860</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>172,744</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>360,604</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Votes</td>
<td>50,510</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over Votes</td>
<td>178</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This measure requires 50%+1 affirmative votes to pass.
# Proposition G - Youth Voting in Local Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ballots cast</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>213,694</td>
<td>50.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>207,054</td>
<td>49.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>420,748</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Votes</td>
<td>26,891</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over Votes</td>
<td>73</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This measure requires 50%+1 affirmative votes to pass.
Prop G Results by District
Youth Vote Measures: Change in Support Between 2016 and 2020

Prop F, 2016 and Prop G, 2020

Change in margin of “Yes” vote

-15% or more
-10%
-5%
-2%
No change
+2%
+5%
+10%
+15% or more

Less support in 2020
More support in 2020
Polling (Before Supporter & Opponent Statements)

Strong Support
- Under 35
- Families
- Mixed-Races
- US Citizens
- LGBTQ+
- New SF voters
- Low-Income voters

Strong Opposition
- Republicans
- 65+
- Black community
- Homeowners
- Regular Voters
- Only High School Education
Supporters say that we need to increase voter participation, and research shows that the younger a person casts their first vote, the more likely they are to be lifelong voters. Studies show that 16-year-olds—who are old enough to work and pay taxes—possess the same level of civic knowledge as 21-year-olds. We've seen young leaders like 16-year-old Greta Thunberg lead the entire world on issues like climate change. It's time for San Francisco, with commitment from the Board of Education, to implement special curriculum in our high schools, to grant 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote.

Opponents say most 16-year-olds have less caution and judgement than older teens, which is why we can't get married or serve in the military until we are 18. Plus, without financial responsibilities in their lives, 16-year-olds will be more likely to vote for wasteful taxes and spending programs—which is exactly what the politicians behind this measure are counting on. Do you agree more with the statement from supporters or from opponents?
Polling (After Supporter & Opponent Statements)

**Strong Support**
- Women
- Democrats
- Under 35
- Black voters
- Latinx voters
- API voters
- Mixed-race voters
- Renters
- Families
- New SF Voters
- New SF Residents
- College Graduates
- Low-Income

**Strong Opponent**
- Republicans
[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.

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

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

ARTICLE XVII: DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"One-third," "a majority" or "two-thirds" of the Board of Supervisors or any other board or commission of the City and County shall mean one-third, a majority or two-thirds of all members of such board or commission.
"Published" shall have the meaning ascribed to the term by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance. The Board of Supervisors shall seek a recommendation from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors before adopting such an ordinance.

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

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

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

"Voter" shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law, except that for municipal elections, "voter" shall also mean 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.

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

By:

[Signature]
ANDREW SHEN
Deputy City Attorney

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[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.
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.

June 08, 2015 Rules Committee - AMENDED

June 08, 2015 Rules Committee - CONTINUED TO CALL OF THE CHAIR AS AMENDED

May 03, 2016 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

May 10, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ORDERED SUBMITTED
Ayes: 9 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Noes: 2 - Cohen and Farrell

I hereby certify that the foregoing Charter Amendment was ORDERED SUBMITTED on 5/10/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
[Urging to Lower San Francisco’s Legal Voting Age to 16 years of age]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


Commissioner Cardenas
SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION
WHEREAS, Young voters will be more likely to continue civic engagement throughout their lives than are those who begin voting later in life; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 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

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

WHEREAS, 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. city; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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5 Hart and Atkins, see supra note 2


WHEREAS, 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, Youth Empowerment Fund, and annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, These and many other efforts by engaged local youth leaders have been very fruitful, with the city benefiting from several policy and 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 permits (File No. 141098\(^8\)), which was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014; and

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\(^8\) "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
WHEREAS, 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, and these efforts have resulted in higher turnout
among voters ages 16-17 than among voters age 18 and older; and

WHEREAS, In December 2010, the Lowell, Massachusetts City Council passed a
resolution petitioning the Massachusetts State Legislature to lower the city’s voting age to 17\(^9\)
and the petition is currently being considered by the Massachusetts State Legislature where it
has garnered the support of several state lawmakers;\(^{10}\) and

WHEREAS, In May 2013, Takoma Park, Maryland became the first municipality in the
United States to reduce its legal voting age to 16 years of age;\(^{11}\) and

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

WHEREAS, The Scottish government allowed 16 and 17 year olds to vote in its
referendum on declaring independence from the United Kingdom;\(^{13}\) and

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

WHEREAS, 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,¹⁵ and

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

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


¹⁶ San 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

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

Commissioner Cardenas
SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

Page 5
1/6/2015
WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors added Rule 2.12.1\textsuperscript{20} to the Board of Supervisors’ Rules of Order in 2014, providing more opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate in public meetings; and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge San Francisco’s elected state representatives—State Senator Mark Leno, Assemblymembers Philip Y. 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; and be it finally

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

____________________________________________
Michel Li

2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair

Adopted by Youth Commission January 5, 2015
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.

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by revising Article XVII, to read as follows:

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

ARTICLE XVII: DEFINITIONS

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

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

* * *
"General municipal election" shall mean the election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in every year until and including 2015. Thereafter, "general municipal election" shall mean the election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years and in every
fourth year following 2015. *For the purpose of this definition, "local officials" shall mean the elected officials identified in Section 13.101.*

* * * *

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

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

"Voter" shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law, except that for general and special municipal elections, "voter" shall also mean 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.

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

By: /s/ Andrew Shen
ANDREW SHEN
Deputy City Attorney
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.

June 15, 2020 Rules Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 23, 2020 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED
     Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

June 30, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ORDERED SUBMITTED
     Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Charter Amendment was ORDERED SUBMITTED on 6/30/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Signature]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
MEMORANDUM

TO: Kiely Hosmon, Director  
   Youth Commission

FROM: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

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.

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RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION Date: June 1, 2020

___ No Comment

X Recommendation Attached

Chairperson, Youth Commission

Youth Commission Referral
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.

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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.

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Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on June 1, 2020
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission
Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco’s legal voting age to sixteen in municipal and school district elections.

WHEREAS, Vote16USA is a national campaign, organized by Generation Citizen, that aims to support efforts to extend voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds on the local level, help start new local campaigns, and elevate the issue’s prominence on a national level; and

WHEREAS, On May 3, 2016, for the first time ever, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and San Francisco Youth Commission held a joint Committee of the Whole meeting to hear from youth in public comment on putting Vote16 on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 11 San Francisco Supervisors voted to put Vote16, which became Proposition F, onto the ballot in November 2016, where it lost by the close margin of 2.1%; and

WHEREAS, Proposition F was endorsed by former Board of Education Commissioners Sandra Lee Fewer, Shaman Walton, and Matt Haney, all of whom are now San Francisco Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Proposition F was also endorsed by State Assembly Members David Chiu and Phil Ting in 2016, as well as by Former Supervisor and now State Senator Scott Wiener; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee, along with 17 San Francisco Democratic clubs endorsed Proposition F in 2016[1]; and

WHEREAS, 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, and these efforts have resulted in higher turnout among voters ages 16-17 than among voters age 18 and older; and

WHEREAS, in March 2019, twenty-eighth Assembly District Assemblymember, Evan Low, introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 (ACA 8) which proposes to lower the California voting age from 18 to 17 and is follow up legislation to his original ACA 10; and
WHEREAS, On March 14th, 2019, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 12) publicly supported lowering the national voting age to 16, mainstreaming the lowering of the voting age; and

WHEREAS, on March 6th, 2019, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA 7) introduced an amendment to H.R. 1, or the For the People Act which would lower the national voting age to 16, and 135 Democratic Representatives voted to support it; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Berkeley voters passed Measure Y1, which lowered the voting age to 16 for Berkeley Unified School District elections; and

WHEREAS, In May 2013, Takoma Park, Maryland became the first municipality in the United States to reduce its legal voting age to 16 years of age;[2] and

WHEREAS, Voter turnout among these newly enfranchised voters in Takoma Park was 44 percent, as compared to the overall voter turnout which was 11 percent;[3] and

WHEREAS, In December 2010, the Lowell, Massachusetts City Council proposed a resolution petitioning the Massachusetts State Legislature to lower the city’s voting age to 17[4] and

WHEREAS, The Scottish government allowed 16 and 17 year olds to vote in its referendum on declaring independence from the United Kingdom, as well as general elections:[5] and

WHEREAS, These 16 and 17 year old voters used this opportunity to exercise their newfound right to vote en masse, with over 90 percent of 16 and 17 year old voters registering to vote in the Scottish independence referendum;[6] and

WHEREAS, In 2016 the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted Resolution No. 1617-AL-05[7] that supported the state legislation Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) introduced by twenty-eighth Assembly District Assemblymember, Evan Low, which would have “reduce[d] the minimum voting age [in California] to 17”; and

WHEREAS, In 2014 the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted Resolution No. 1314—02[8] that called on the Board of Supervisors and Youth-Serving Commissions to create a “Youth Voice” Policy that would allow more young people to
come to testify at public meetings to voice their concerns and opinions on legislation
that would directly impact them; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Undocumented and incarcerated young people in the City and
County of San Francisco currently have no outlet to directly impact policy other than
physical activism, which many undocumented people consider to be dangerous; and

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

WHEREAS, 16 year olds possess roughly the same political knowledge as 21
year olds and come close to the average for all adults;[11] and

WHEREAS, Young people who vote will make voting habitual, as voting is a life-
long practice begun once one casts their first vote; [12] and

WHEREAS, Young voters will be more likely to continue civic engagement
throughout their lives than are those who begin voting later in life;[13] and

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

WHEREAS, Studies have proven 16 year old voters are competent and mature
enough to make well-informed decisions that will influence their lives and the broader
electorate;[14] and
WHEREAS, The median age of a San Francisco resident as of 2016 is 38, but the average age of the electorate has risen from 44.2 in 1980 to 45.8 and is projected to be 47.6 by 2025; and

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

WHEREAS, Between 2000 and 2013, San Francisco lost about 8,000 school age youth and now has the lowest percentage of children of any major U.S. city; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, The city has seen fit to make investments in the leadership and civic engagement of young people that DYCF’s Youth Leadership and Organizing programs, Youth Empowerment Fund, and annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the current political moment has galvanized civic involvement among young people in SF in resistance to the current administration, with hundreds of students walking out on Inauguration Day and thousands participating in the March For Our Lives protests to make their voices heard; and

WHEREAS, frustrated with the inaction of the U.S. Government to address the crisis of human-made climate change, young people in SF and around the country are increasingly organizing to make their support for green policy and environmental justice known; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco hosts a vibrant community of youth advocates, youth organizers, and youth philanthropists who play critical roles in advising local nonprofits and city departments on matters pertaining to the youth of San Francisco and policy affecting them; and
WHEREAS, these youth leaders play a key role in the formation and revision of the city’s youth policy but remain disenfranchised despite being recognized by the city and local nonprofits as community leaders; and

WHEREAS, 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 youth poll workers make up ⅓ of the total amount of poll workers each election in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, 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;[17] and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors added Rule 2.12.1[18] to the Board of Supervisors’ Rules of Order in 2014, providing more opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate in public meetings; and

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

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge San Francisco’s elected state representatives—State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly members Philip Y. Ting and David Chiu—to prepare
legislation that would provide for a state constitutional amendment to reduce the voting
age to sixteen for all state elections; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in support of Assembly Constitutional
Amendment 8 (ACA-8) and, be it

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

Bahlam Vigil, Chair,
2018-19 Youth Commission
Adopted on May 6, 2019


[http://www.scotcen.org.uk/media/205540/131129_will-16-and-17-years-olds-make-a-difference.pdf](http://www.scotcen.org.uk/media/205540/131129_will-16-and-17-years-olds-make-a-difference.pdf)

[7] San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 1617-AL-05 “[Resolution Urging the Board of Supervisors to Support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10, Allowing 17 year Olds to Vote in State Elections],” adopted April 17, 2017

[8] 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

[9] San 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


no. 4 (2012). Accessed December 29, 2014 at:


[14] Hart and Atkins, see supra note 2


[18] “Motion amending the Board of Supervisors Rules of Order, by adding Rule 2.12.2, to establish communication procedures for hearings on matters related to the Youth Commission.” San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Accessed December 6, 2014: