



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Northern
California

April 27, 2020

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Council President Rebecca Kaplan
President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb
Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas
Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney
Councilmember Sheng Thao
Councilmember Noel Gallo
Councilmember Loren Taylor

Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Oakland Youth Vote - SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Oakland City Council:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California is proud to support and stand with Oakland's youth leaders and encourages you to vote in favor of placing Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) on the November 2020 ballot. OYV was initiated by Oakland's young people and will give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote in Oakland's school board elections.

Young voters are key stakeholders in our democracy: they are increasingly active, engaged, and informed participants in civic and political efforts and are dedicated to improving our communities. This is embodied by the work of the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission, which has spent years working to ensure Oakland's most vulnerable youth, families, and workers are supported, protected, and included in our democracy. Youth leaders in Oakland have a deep legacy of organizing with adult allies and winning concrete improvements in our schools and neighborhoods.

OYV promotes civic engagement by allowing young members of our community to form a habit of voting from an early age. OYV would enfranchise up to 8,000 youth in school board elections, creating an opportunity for early involvement in the voting process, which in turn has the potential to increase registration and turn out rates amongst young voters. Oakland's young voters are important members of our communities and OYV would rightfully grant them an opportunity to become involved in matters that affect them personally.

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California

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For all of these reasons, the ACLU of Northern California supports placing Oakland Youth Vote on the November 2020 ballot.

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