



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 11

City and County of San Francisco

JOHN AVALOS

July 22, 2016

Re: Youth Voting in Local Elections Digest

Dear Committee Members Packard, Anderson, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Committee consider the following additions to the “Youth Voting in Local Elections” digest:

1. I request that the “The Way It Is Now” section include language to inform voters of the fact California state law already allows 16 and 17 year olds to preregister to vote, under the California Election Code § 2101 and § 2102.

Rationale: This would help to put the proposed change in context with relevant current state election laws.

2. I request that language be added to the “The Proposal” section and the “A YES Vote Means” section to reflect the United States citizenship requirement, and that this language remain consistent with the “The Way It Is Now Section.”

Rationale: Including this language would ensure voters are aware that the proposed charter amendment would not make any changes to citizenship requirements for voting. I am concerned that mentioning the citizenship requirement in the “The Way It Is Now” section and not in the other sections could cause confusion.

3. I request that the digest specifically state that the measure would permit 16 and 17 year olds to vote in Board of Education and Community College Board of Trustee elections.

Rationale: These offices are sometimes considered local offices and sometimes considered state offices. I recommend clarifying that the proposal includes these elections.

4. I request that the “The Proposal” section of the digest indicate that the proposal will be implemented beginning with the 2018 elections.

Rationale: I believe that voters should be aware of this information as they consider the proposed charter amendment. This would avoid confusion about whether youth would be allowed to vote in the current election.

I have attached a “track changes” version of the digest that includes these suggested changes. Thank you for your consideration and for all of your time and effort devoted to the work of the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Avalos".

John Avalos
Supervisor, District 11

Youth Voting in Local Elections
Digest Suggestions from Supervisor John Avalos

The Way It Is Now: San Francisco residents who are at least 18 years old and who are United States citizens may vote in San Francisco elections.

San Francisco residents who are 16 and 17 years old and who are United States citizens may preregister to vote.

San Francisco voters may vote on local candidates and ballot measures, State candidates and ballot measures, and federal candidates.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a Charter amendment that would allow San Francisco residents who are at least 16 years old and who are United States citizens to vote on local candidates and local ballot measures, including candidates for Board of Education and the Community College Board of Trustees.

Proposition ___ would be implemented in time for the 2018 elections.

Proposition __ would not permit 16 and 17 year olds to vote on State candidates, State ballot measures, or federal candidates.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to amend the Charter to allow San Francisco residents who are 16 or older and who are United States citizens to vote on local candidates and ballot measures, including candidates for Board of Education and the Community College Board of Trustees. This would be implemented in time for the 2018 elections.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes.