

From:

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:36 PM

To:

Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting, May 6, 2024

Message submitted from the <City of Albany, CA> website.

Site Visitor Name: [REDACTED]

Site Visitor Email: [REDACTED]

Please convey my comments to Council today for the May 6 meeting, and pardon my late timing.

Regarding the proposal for a November 2024 ballot measure permitting 16 and 17 year olds to vote in City and School Board elections: The Charter Review Committee reviewed this issue in depth while I was a member, before the Council dissolved the Committee. As of November 2022 or shortly thereafter, the Committee determined that it could not recommend such a move at the time, and drafted a research status document on youth voting for Council. As I recall, the issues included feasibility concerns and lack of demonstrated community support. Since then, I'm aware that only one issue has changed: the March 2024 BoE resolution does indicate some community appetite, but the BoE doesn't represent the Albany community vis a vis City elections. Therefore, it appears the only real development since the Charter Committee's status report circa late 2022 is that there is now community support for 16 and 17 year olds to vote in School Board elections. If there is recent substantial support for them to vote in City elections, please share that. If not, and if the Council still wants to proceed with a Charter amendment regarding School Board elections only, please be aware of Charter language in Section 6.01 (a) requiring that board members be elected "in the same manner and time as for the members of the Council." Bottom line: based on the Jordan memo and on my extensive participation in Charter Committee research, I'm not convinced that the proposed amendment has broad ground-up support, is solving a real problem for Albany, or is enabling Albany to take advantage of a real opportunity.

From:

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:38 PM

To:

Subject: Agenda item 11-4 Letter

Dear City Council,

We are the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville Youth Council, an organization of students at Albany High School. As a Youth Council, we are actively engaged in pre-voter registration and civics education at the high school. We've given presentations to our upperclassmen that highlight local policies and civic actions. For example, we educated students about electrification, connecting it to Albany policies (e.g. the 2020 ordinance recommending that all new residential and commercial buildings be electric, and the additional \$65,000 in funding approved last February for heat pump rebates). We also organize annual (pre) - voter registration drives. Over the course of these drives, we present to all upperclassmen, explaining the history and importance of voting and then facilitating pre-registration.

Through our work, we are familiar with the political awareness, engagement, and thoughtfulness of our own Youth Council members and the student body at large. Therefore, we strongly encourage the City Council to follow Berkeley and Oakland's lead in lowering the voting age to 16 years old.

Signed,

Victoria Burgess - Co-president

Alex Li - Co-president

Erin Cho - Secretary

Elaine Zhang - Social Media Manager

Xavier Nguyen

Sangey Palshertsang

Harsha Ramesh

Margaret Montag

Zoey Yan

Tessa O'Donnell

Iris Yu

Ash Ramos