

## San Pablo Youth Commission



## Proposal to Change the Legal Voting Age --Interest Sheet

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Thursday, June 8, 2017

San Pablo City Council 13831 San Pablo Ave. San Pablo, Ca 94806



RE: Lowering the Voting Age from Eighteen to Seventeen Years-old

Dear San Pablo City Council,

The San Pablo Youth Commission would like to show support for Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10), lowering the voting age from 18 years-old to 17 years-old.

As members of the San Pablo Youth Commission, we come together to advocate for our community's concerns, to empower youth to be positive leaders, and through voice and representation in our city government, to make positive changes within our community. The San Pablo Youth Commission feels that lowering the voting age directly aligns with our mission.

By passing ACA 10, the lives of future youth leaders will be impacted positively. As youth leaders, we know that allowing young adults to vote would make them become more involved in politics and local city and government issues. It saddens us that the youth voter turnout, in California, has the lowest turnout rate of any age demographic, with the youth voting turnout reaching a low in 2014 elections. Research shows that the earlier in life one votes, the more likely they are to form a lifelong habit of voting.

The San Pablo Youth Commission is an example of youth who desire the higher level of voice and representation, which comes with the right to vote. After the latest election in 2016, we witnessed ourselves and our peers wanting increased participation and youth voice. Schools in San Pablo held rallies, hosted dialogues, and organized walk-outs and peaceful demonstrations. Some adults may not trust youth to make the right decisions, but we feel that lowering the voting age will help us demonstrate our civic knowledge and leadership. San Pablo youth are just one example of many youth who want to be more deeply connected to government and policy.

Attached is a list of the San Pablo Youth Commission members, who unanimously support ACA 10. We are seeking your approval to submit a letter to Assemblymember Low to show our support. The letter will consist of the same points we have shared with you in this letter. For additional information or to discuss further, contact our Staff Liaison Elise Veliz.

Sincerely,

Elham Esquivel-Cruz, Chair

On behalf of the San Pablo Youth Commission

Creating Community Through People, Parks & Programs