



Argument in Favor of Measure V

Measure V will give more of our residents a say in our government and encourage civic participation for years to come. This measure gives 16- and 17-year olds the right to vote in Albany's elections. Our neighbors in Berkeley and Oakland have already taken similar steps to allow youth voting in School Board elections in their cities, recognizing that our youth should have a voice in policies that impact them. Albany has the chance to give our youth an even greater voice in our community, acknowledging that they are impacted by decisions made beyond our schools. Lowering the voting age to 16 is supported by a broad body of peer-reviewed research. Neuropsychology has found that, while 16-year olds need more time to develop the faculties to make in-the-moment or emotional decisions, they have the same cognitive capacity as 18-year olds to make considered, rational, and deliberative decisions, which are used for voting. Political science finds 16- and 17-year-olds vote at the same rate as middle aged and older people while 18- to 20-year olds vote substantially less. Furthermore, once people vote once, they are much more likely to vote again. As a result, jurisdictions that have lowered the voting age have seen an increase in overall voter turnout. Albany acknowledges the importance and value of the voice of our students by reserving at least one seat on almost every City advisory body for them; many of these appointees have then been voted Chair by their fellow members. We and the League of Women Voters agree: Albany's engaged 16- and 17-year olds should have the right to vote. Please join us and vote for Measure V. More information, including research citations, is available at YouthVoteAlbany.org.

/s/ John Miki, Mayor

/s/ Veronica Davidson, School Board President

/s/ Preston Jordan, City Council member

/s/ Aaron Tiedemann, City Council member

/s/ Kande Mosley Gandhi, President, League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville