

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA

Resolution Supporting California Proposition 18, Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment (2020)

WHEREAS, The Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment (2020), will allow those who will be 18 years of age by the time of the general election to participate in the primary election if they are 17 at the primary; and

WHEREAS, this important election reform will not only allow first-time voters to participate in the full election cycle, but also has the potential to boost youth participation in our elections; and

WHEREAS, we need youth voices to be represented at the ballot box. Allowing some 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if, and only if they will be 18 by the time of the general election, is a simple way to amplify the voices of young voters throughout California and will lead to a more inclusive election process for our state overall; and

WHEREAS, California is behind the curve when it comes to this issue. At present, 18 states in the U.S. allow 17-year-olds to participate in primaries and caucuses; and

WHEREAS, if an individual plans to participate in the general election as a first-time voter, it is only reasonable that they be afforded the opportunity to shape the choices that appear on the general election ballot by participating in the primary; and

WHEREAS, the measure links this 17-year-old participation to the age of the majority by requiring that individuals be 18 by the time of the general election; and

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by the California Civic Engagement Project, in the 2020 primary election in California, youth voters aged between 18-24 made up 14.5% of the population eligible to vote; however, only 6% of those actually voted in the election. Youth are extremely underrepresented in our electoral process despite the fact they are heavily impacted by the policies created by those elected; and

WHEREAS, not only does research indicate that the youth population has the lowest turnout levels of any age demographic, studies also show that voting is habit-forming once an individual votes in an election they are more likely to do so again; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment is an opportunity to empower California's youngest voters and encourage them to become life-long participants in the most fundamental act of democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Morgan Hill Unified School District endorses The Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment (2020) on the November 3, 2020 statewide ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Morgan Hill Unified School District at a regular meeting held on October 20, 2020 by the following vote;

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENTS:

ABSTAIN:

DATED _____ SIGNED: _____
Carol Ann Gittens, President
Board of Education

I, Steve Betando, Secretary of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT at the regular meeting on October 20, 2020, which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____
Steve Betando, Secretary
Board of Education