

| Board Office Use: Legislative File Info. |              |
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| File ID Number                           | 22-1527      |
| Introduction Date                        | June 8, 2022 |
| Enactment Number                         |              |
| Enactment Date                           |              |



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Community Schools, Thriving Students

# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Sam Davis, Board Vice President  
Aimee Eng, Board Member

**Meeting Date** June 8, 2022

**Subject** Resolution No. 2122-0089 - Supporting the Implementation of Measure QQ in High Schools

**Ask of the Board** Introduction of Resolution No. 2122-0089 - Supporting the Implementation of Measure QQ in High Schools as a new legislative matter

**Background** Historically, youth (ages 18-24) have been the least likely to vote in California elections. However, we have begun to see youth voter turnout increase from 36.6% in 2016 to 47.4% in 2020. Young people want to vote. They care about their futures and understand that they have the ability to either let others make decisions that impact them or to vote and help re-imagine what a future may look like. Furthermore, youth vote research has found that high school civics education significantly impacts youth voter behavior. A study done by the Tufts Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement found that youth were 40% more likely to vote when they turned 18 after having been taught about voting. More specifically, researchers have noted that only half of US youth are taught how to register to vote, despite the clear benefits of a comprehensive civic education.

Measure QQ was passed with a 67% vote by Oakland voters in November 2020. The measure enables the City Council to expand the voting age to 16 and 17 year olds for Oakland school board elections. This is a priority for Oakland youth and local organizations that comprise the Oakland Youth Vote Coalition (ACC, CFJ, OKF, AYPAL, YT, and OYC). Students have been doing important work to support the expansion of our local democracy by pre-registering youth voters, developing a Student Justice Platform that emphasizes students priorities, conducting voter education, and partnering with OUSD to develop a Voter Engagement Resolution.

**Discussion** The City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District have the opportunity provide youth with meaningful civic engagement by creating opportunities to further enfranchise the primary recipients of decisions that are taken at the Board level. For the November 2022 election, Oakland will have over 5,000 16- and 17-year olds. Regardless of with the City Council makes them eligible to vote, all students will benefit from a civically engaged school wide culture that promotes student voice and student engagement.

The proposed Resolution is intended to have the Superintendent (or designee) develop a comprehensive plan to increase voter education and registration among high school students. The proposed Resolution requires that specific actions be included in the plan

**Fiscal Impact** To be determined.

**Attachment**

- Resolution No. 2122-0089 - Supporting the Implementation of Measure QQ in High Schools

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2122-0089**

**Supporting the Implementation of Measure QQ in High Schools**

**WHEREAS**, Oakland Unified School District's core values include prioritizing students first and equity as well as integrating student voice in decision-making, especially students with the highest needs;

**WHEREAS**, youth participation in civic engagement and the electoral process is an empowering practice of youth voice;

**WHEREAS**, voters in California ages 18-24 exercise their right to vote at significantly lower rates, 23.4% less than all older voters, and engaging voters in their youth increases the likelihood of voter turnout by 40%;

**WHEREAS**, Measure QQ, which enables the City Council to expand the voting age to 16 and 17 year olds in OUSD school board elections, passed with a 67% vote in the November 2020 election;

**WHEREAS**, Measure QQ was born out of the Oakland Youth Vote campaign, which was adopted by youth members of Oakland Kids First, All City Council Student Union, Californians for Justice, Youth Together, AYPAL, and the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission to create an onramp to broader democratic participation for young people;

**WHEREAS**, the November 2022 school board election will have a critical impact on the District, its students, its community, and on key educational issues;

**WHEREAS**, youth voting for OUSD school board members who represent their interests and have the power to influence school policies can help build the schools that young people in Oakland need and deserve;

**WHEREAS**, the California State Voter Registration deadline to participate in the November 8, 2022 General Election is October 24, 2022;

**WHEREAS**, the Education Code designates the last two full weeks of April and September as High School Voter Education Week in order to cultivate lifelong voters and active citizens and, for the 2022-23 school year, these weeks will fall on September 19-30, 2022 and April 17-28, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, in order to vote in California citizens must be registered to vote and National Voter Registration Day will be celebrated across the nation on September 20, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, to be empowered and informed voters, young people should be engaged in the electoral process and civic education in their high school years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education (“Board”) formally acknowledges the immense impact Measure QQ would have on the District’s diverse student body, community, and staff, and the Board commits to establishing a Districtwide foundational culture to increase access to voter education and registration;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to create a comprehensive plan that includes structures to support the following District-wide goals: (i) Informing all school personnel regarding OUSD High School Voter Education week in September and April; (ii) providing high school and adult school principals and parent centers with educational materials regarding voter registration to be made available; and (iii) encouraging schools to create student voter outreach events during the Fall and Spring;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as part of High School Voter Education Week, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that the appropriate departments coordinate with Alameda County Registrar of Voters, the California Secretary of State, and each school site to ensure that voter registration activities will occur on every high school and adult school campus and at parent centers

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, such activities shall include, but are not limited to:

- Prominently posting or sharing a link to the Secretary of State’s online voter registration form ([registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)) on school’s website or with the school community via electronic communication;
- Setting up at least one station to assist students with voter registration or pre-registration. The station shall be staffed by the voter registration coordinators and/or other knowledgeable persons equipped with educational materials (including materials in non-English languages), paper voter registration cards, and online voter registration access. Stations should be located in an area that garners high foot traffic from students and educators, and should be set up during non-class times such as before school, during breaks or lunches, and after school;
- Innovative, fun, and engaging opportunities for students to lead Voter Registration efforts, such as a Voter Registration Drive, classroom workshops/presentations, Mock Elections, friendly competitions to get peers registered, and tabling at school-wide events;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board recognizes the need for targeted efforts to support students (particularly, high school students) to become civically engaged and to understand the voting process and that such efforts may include the following:

- Identifying staff to be responsible for coordinating voter registration efforts,
- Raising awareness about the importance of registering to vote and support High School Voter Education Week,

- Developing additional communications strategies to share information about voter registration,
- Creating opportunities for students ineligible to vote to understand additional ways to become civically engaged,
- Encouraging schools to offer opportunities for students to engage in service learning projects geared towards voter registration, voter contact, and poll worker programs between now and November 8, 2022;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the District must continue to support youth democracy and civic engagement, including in the District’s high school curricula and programming;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to create a plan to implement civics education and civic engagement curriculum starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at the Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Gary Yee  
President, Board of Education

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