

OAKLAND YOUTH VOTE

AT 16 FOR
SCHOOL BOARD



Who are we?

Oakland Youth Vote Coalition



Overview



1. History of Youth Vote
2. Intro to Report
3. Key Takeaways and Recommendations
4. Personal Reflections
5. Proposal

Timeline



2020

Measure QQ
Passes by 67% of
Oakland Voters

2021-2024

Fought for
Implementation of
Measure QQ

2024

Launch of first
youth vote for
odd districts

2025-Present

Improving and
institutionalizing
youth vote

Youth Vote Is Legal (ref pg 15):

Lacy v. San Francisco (California Court of Appeals)

- San Francisco authorize voting in local school board elections by noncitizen parents/guardians of school-age children. This was challenged and went to appeals court in 2023
- The court's reasoning: Just as a charter city can expand the franchise for local school board elections to non-citizen voters, a charter city can expand the franchise for local school board elections to youth voters

- This report is an assessment of the first ever Oakland Youth Vote in 2024
- Report synthesizes reflections, successes, lessons learned, and makes recommendations for improvements to the youth voting system.

About the Report



Takeaways #1

for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Takeaway

In-class civic engagement curriculum combined with discussions and pre-registration were the most effective way to engage youth voters.

Recommendations #1 for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Recommendations

- **School districts should formalize a curriculum that pairs civic education with voter registration activities across grade levels.**
- **Schools should designate administrative and/or department leads responsible for curriculum implementation, should invest in and compensate teacher professional development around civic education, and should explore ways to teach students practical, investigative skills for learning more about candidates on the ballot.**

Takeaways #2 for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Takeaway

OUSD's Superintendent didn't create a comprehensive plan to support youth voting as directed by a School Board resolution, which meant schools didn't have sufficient direction or accountability.

Recommendations #2 for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Recommendations

- **The school board should direct OUSD's communications department as well as district and school administrators to outreach to students and families about voter registration and voting via Parent Square and other targeted means.**
- **The school board should also ensure targeted civic engagement curriculum is developed and vetted and that school administrators ensure it is implemented at scale at each high school.**

Takeaways #3 for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Takeaway

There was not an effective partnership with Oakland Unified School District and the Registrar of Voters to promote pre-registration and voting.

Recommendations #3 for Education Officials (ref pg 28-31)

Recommendations

- **Schools districts should work with elections officials to: promote voting, including incorporating voter pre-registration of eligible youth voters into the school registration/enrollment process and ensuring that every high school has a ballot drop box.**
- **Where feasible, have as many high schools as possible serve as vote centers where youth voters can turn in their ballots or register and vote in person in the days leading up to and on Election Day.**

“I fought for youth voting because it’s just fair for youth to have a say in decisions that directly impact them. I’m excited to vote when I turn 16, and I have three younger brothers who will now be able to vote in the future, too!”

- Oakland Youth Leader



“Fighting for the youth vote helped me have an impact even though, as a noncitizen, I’m not eligible to vote. And it has motivated me even more to pursue citizenship.”

– *Oakland Youth Leader*

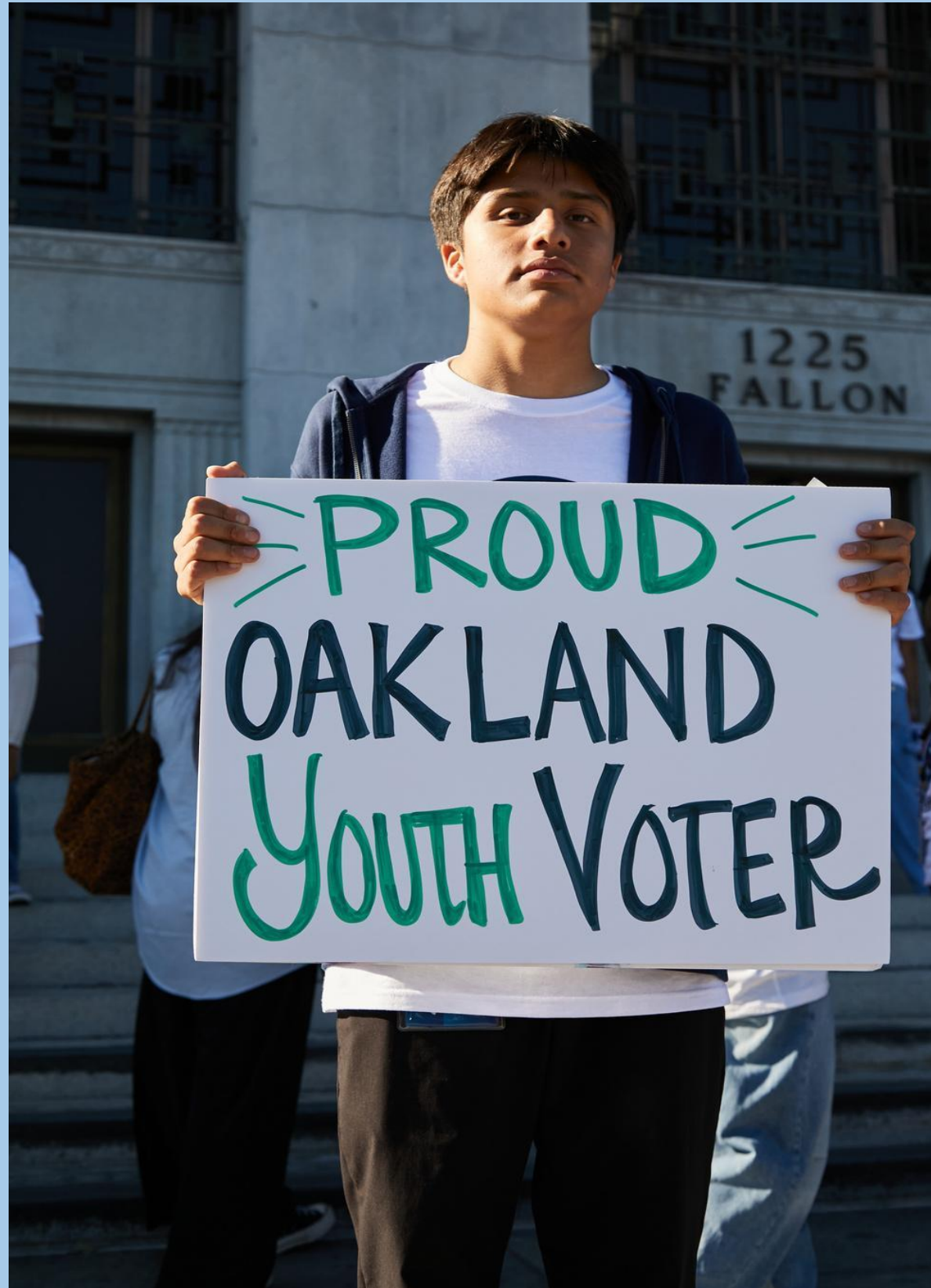


“This curriculum was fantastic. It pulls the curtain of mystery back on ... voting. Voting is one of our strongest powers as citizens and this helps support making sure every student who will eventually go into the polls has some idea of how and what to expect. I highly recommend this curriculum for all students.”

- Oakland Teacher Champion




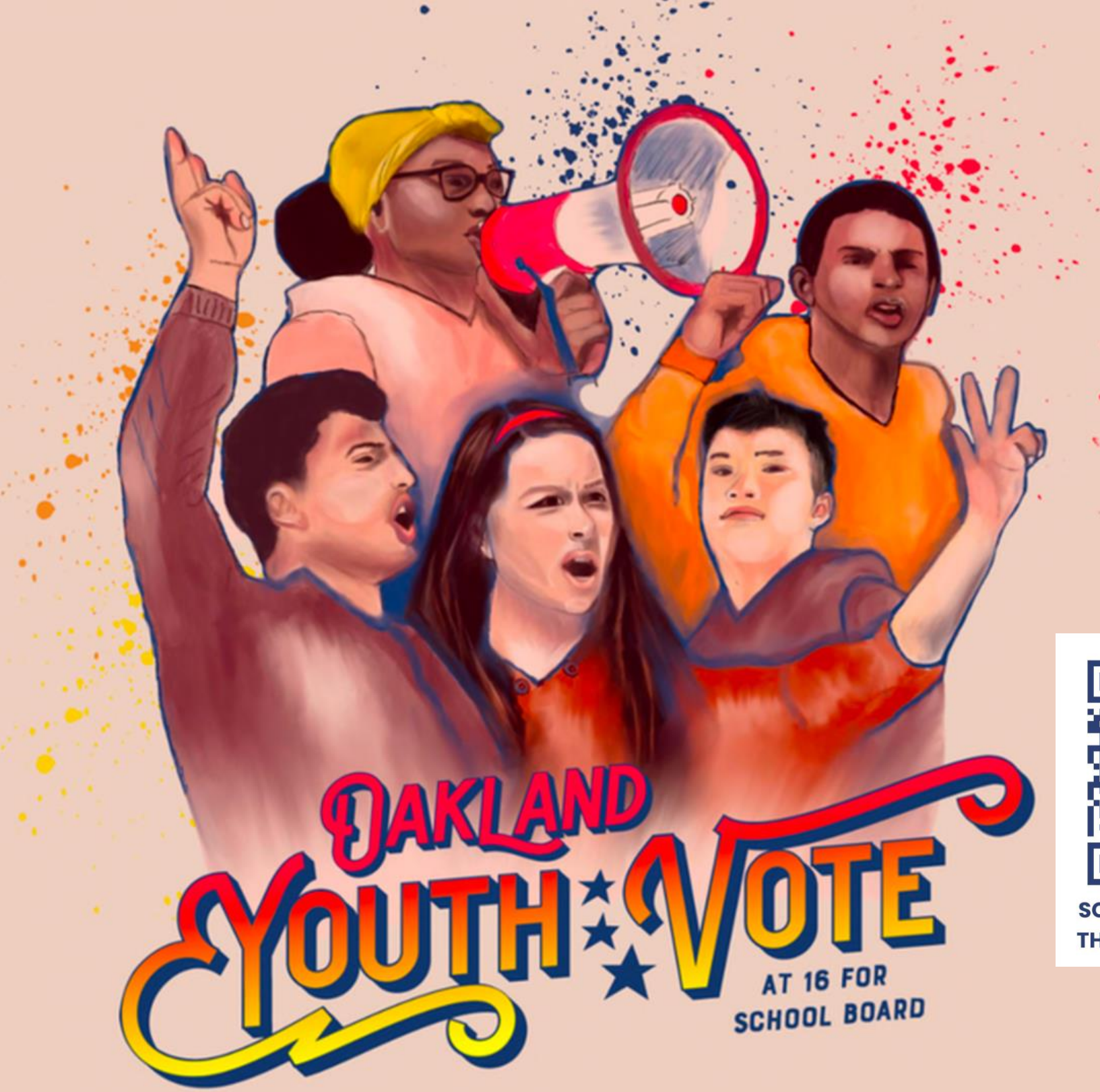
Proposal



In accordance with [RESOLUTION 2122-0089](#) that the school board unanimously passed on June 22, 2022 - Supporting the Implementation of Measure QQ in High Schools, OUSD should implement the following best practices:

1. Voter education in class
2. Youth pre-registration in class
3. Outreach

Questions?



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