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July 10, 2020

Asha Reed, Interim City Clerk
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza 2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF "YOUTH VOTING" MEASURE

Dear Interim City Clerk Reed:

I am pleased to submit an impartial analysis of the "Youth Voting" measure, which would authorize the Oakland City Council to lower the voting age for Oakland School Board elections from 18 to 16.

The Office of the City Auditor prepared this analysis in accordance with Municipal Code Section 3.08.210, which requires the Office to prepare an impartial financial analysis of each measure qualifying for ballot placement.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Edmonds, Assistant City Auditor, at 925-487-6332.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney A. Ruby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

COURTNEY A. RUBY, CPA, CFE
City Auditor

Summary

Currently, persons under the age of 18 cannot vote in Oakland school board elections. This measure, if approved by more than 50 percent of the voters, would give the Oakland City Council the authority to lower the voting age for Oakland school board elections from 18 to 16. Specifically, the City Council would be authorized to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. This measure would not allow the City Council to change any other voter eligibility requirements under State law.

The Oakland City Charter governs the elections for Oakland Unified School District's School Board Directors. The Oakland School Board has seven Directors elected to four-year terms by districts corresponding to the seven Oakland City Council districts. Three Directors are elected in the General Municipal Elections in a non-presidential election year, and the remaining four Directors are elected in the General Municipal elections in a presidential election year.

Fiscal Impact

Since this measure merely authorizes the City Council to adopt an ordinance allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Director, the measure, by itself, does not have a direct fiscal impact.

If the measure passes, and if the City Council adopts such an ordinance in the future, the City would incur minor costs associated with allowing persons aged 16 and 17 to vote for the Office of School Board Director. We estimate the City would incur additional costs of approximately \$7,000 - \$10,000, in years in which Oakland school board elections are held.

The additional costs include higher election costs paid to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and additional printing costs related to the increase in registered voters. Our estimate is based on the Oakland School Board election costs, paid by the City, for the 2018 General Municipal Election. Since the earliest that voters aged 16 and 17 could vote in Oakland School Board elections is November 2022 (two years after the November 2020 election), we would expect these costs to be slightly higher due to inflation.

Information in our independent analysis represents the best information available at the time of this analysis.