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July 29, 2022

Asha Reed, City Clerk  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Financial Analysis of “OUSD Non-Citizen Voting” ballot measure**

Dear City Clerk Reed:

I am pleased to submit an impartial financial analysis of the “OUSD Non-Citizen Voting,” ballot measure, which if approved by a majority of the voters, would authorize non-citizen residents, who are the parents, legal guardians, or legally recognized caregivers of a child, to vote in OUSD’s school board elections.

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 Michael Houston, Assistant City Auditor at 510-238-3114.

Sincerely,

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

Courtney A. Ruby, CPA, CFE  
City Auditor

## **Summary**

Currently, non-citizen residents are not permitted to vote in Oakland Unified School District's (OUSD) school board elections. This measure, if approved by a majority of the voters, would authorize non-citizen residents, who are the parents, legal guardians, or legally recognized caregivers of a child, to vote in OUSD's school board elections. Specifically, the measure would authorize the Oakland City Council to adopt an ordinance to allow specified non-citizen residents to vote in OUSD school board elections. This measure does not authorize the City Council to change other state voter eligibility requirements.

The Oakland City Charter governs the elections for OUSD's school board directors. OUSD's 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 non-presidential election years, and the remaining four directors are elected in the general municipal elections in presidential election years.

## **Financial Analysis**

If the measure passes, and if the City Council adopts such an ordinance in the future, we estimate the City of Oakland (City) would incur costs of \$21,000 to \$28,000 in years in which OUSD school board elections are held. These costs would increase with inflation as the measure, if approved, would not go into effect any earlier than the 2024 general election.

Our estimate is based on the costs of the 2020 general municipal election for the OUSD school board and estimates of the number of non-citizen parents in Oakland reported in the City Council resolution authorizing this measure to be placed on the ballot. Additional costs include a minimal increase in election costs paid to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and printing costs related to the increase in registered voters.

Besides the above costs, the City would also incur additional ongoing costs for creating and maintaining an additional database within the existing voter registration system. However, we cannot estimate these costs at this time.

Our independent analysis is based on the best information available at this time.