



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

May 30, 2018

Councilmember Charles Allen
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004
callen@dccouncil.us

RE: DC Council Bill B22-0778 – the “Youth Vote Amendment Act of 2018”

Dear Councilmember Allen,

At its regular meeting on May 16, 2018, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (**5-2-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Harnett and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a flourishing democracy ensures that everyone has the right and the power to make choices about the future of their communities and nation through the ballot box,

WHEREAS, student activism in the United States in response to the current political climate has been a reminder of the power young people have to bring about change,

WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia at 16 years old one may register for a driver’s license, get a job, and pay taxes on their income,

WHEREAS, the DC Public Schools (DCPS) teaches civics to all high school students,

WHEREAS, students are significantly more likely to develop consistent voting patterns and become lifelong voters at 16 years old than at 18 years old due to their engagement in high school and lack of an intense transition when they turn 18 due to moving off to college, starting work, etc,

WHEREAS, an analysis published by the American Political Science Association (APSA) shows that about one of every nine parents who would have abstained from an election will vote after their children enter the electorate,

WHEREAS, in local U.S. elections that enabled 16 and 17-year-olds to vote, turnout was up to four times the rate for registered voters under 18 years old than it was for registered voters 18 and older,



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

WHEREAS, the DC Government and the Federal Government pass laws that have a direct impact on young people in the District, despite their lack of voting rights in selecting elected local, state, and federal representatives,

WHEREAS, to profoundly improve our primary education system, students should have the right to vote for educational leaders that will elevate their voices, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A notes with deep concern the unconstitutionality of any test or arbitrary qualification established to evaluate whether any particular voter should be able to exercise their right to vote, and that the history of the United States has historically disenfranchised and denied the right to vote to people of color and women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the passage of DC Council Bill B22-0778 — the “Youth Vote Amendment Act of 2018.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the DC Public Schools to further integrate the practice of voting into the high school social studies curriculum, encouraging students to put what they learn about government in the classroom into practice.

Commissioner James Harnett (2A08@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter and is authorized to give testimony on the basis of language contained in this resolution.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy Smith, MD
Chairperson

CC: Brian Pick, Chief of Teaching and Learning, DC Public Schools
Scott Abbott, Director of Social Studies, DC Public Schools
Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5

Councilmember Vincent Gray, Ward 7

Councilmember Trayon White, Ward 8

Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large

Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large

Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large

Councilmember Robert White, At-Large

Alana Intrieri, Director, Mayor’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs