



Katherine Diaz, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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June 5, 2023

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal
NY State Senator
322 Eights Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Re: Resolution in support of lowering the Voting Age to Sixteen for NYS Elections and NYC Municipal Elections.

Dear Senator Hoylman-Sigal,

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 31 votes in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting, at its Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, General Meeting, urging the New York State Legislature to pass New York State Senate Bills S 660 and S 2562 (Brad Hoylman-Sigal), and New York State Assembly Bills A 274 and A 330 (Robert C. Carroll), which would amend NY State Election Law and the New York State Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age to sixteen; and urging the New York City Council to pass a resolution supporting the New York State legislation.

WHEREAS: Current New York State Election Law has established the minimum age for voting at the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS: This Legislation has been introduced in the New York State Senate (Hoylman-Sigal: S 660, and S2562) and the New York State Assembly (Carroll: A 274 and A 330). The passing of this bill will lower the voting age to 16 for New York *State Elections and NYC* Municipal Elections. Moreover, this will Institute 8 hours of civics instruction, which will be implemented in NYC High Schools; and

WHEREAS: This NY State legislation is co-sponsored by our local State Legislative representatives – State Senator Robert Jackson; State Assemblyman Manny De Los Santos; and State Assemblyman Al Taylor; and

WHEREAS: Federal legislation for lowering the voting age to 16 is co-sponsored by Congressman Adriano Espaillat (Amendment to the For the People Act, HR 1; and legislation to amend to U.S. Constitution (HJ Reso 23); and

WHEREAS: Councilwoman Carmen De La Rosa and Councilman Shaun Abreu support lowering the voting age to 16; and

WHEREAS: Since the passing of the *bill* to allow 16- and 17-year-olds on *Community Boards in NYC*, the number of, Sixteen-and seventeen-year-olds involved in Municipal affairs is impactful. Their community engagement has included activities such as advisory boards, action-civics classrooms, community service; and

WHEREAS: Many sixteen and seventeen-year-olds pay income and sales tax, yet have no electoral input on how these revenues are spent; and

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WHEREAS: The minimum voting age of sixteen has been established for years in many nations such as Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Ecuador, the Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey; and of course, within the United States it has also been established in municipalities in the State of Maryland – such as Takoma Park and Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS: In places where people register at the age of sixteen or seventeen, turnout rates in initial elections are higher than those who first register at the age of eighteen (source: Generation Citizen White Paper, 'Young Voices at the Ballot Box', February 2020); and

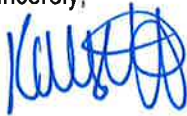
WHEREAS: Those who register at age sixteen or seventeen tend to vote at higher turnout rates than those who register at age eighteen in subsequent elections, indicating that the habit of voting has been better established (source: Generation Citizen White Paper, 'Young Voices at the Ballot Box, February 2020; and

WHEREAS: Recent developmental and political research demonstrates that sixteen and seventeen-year-olds have the adequate cognitive capacity, political knowledge, and motivation to vote (sources: Teen 2.0, Robert Epstein, Ph.D., Harvard University; and 'Reconsidering the Minimum Voting Age in the U.S.', Osterhoff, et al, Montana State University, 2020); and

BE IT RESOLVED: That Community Board # 12 Manhattan urges the New York State Legislature to pass New York State Senate Bills S 660 and S 2562 (Brad Hoylman-Sigal), and New York State Assembly Bills A 274 and A 330 (Robert C. Carroll), which would amend NY State Election Law and the New York State Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age to sixteen; and

BE IT RESOLVED: Community Board #12 Manhattan urges the New York City Council to pass a resolution supporting the New York State legislation.

Sincerely,



Katherine Diaz
Chairperson

Cc: Hon. Eric L. Adams, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator
Hon. Robert C. Carroll, State Senator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member
Hon. Lisandra Sanchez, President CEC Council 6