



## 2018 District of Columbia Elections Candidate Questionnaire

May 21, 2018

Dear Candidate,

The [Vote16DC Campaign](#) invites all 2018 candidates for elected office in the District of Columbia to respond to our Candidate Questionnaire regarding youth voting rights in DC. Vote16DC is a coalition of DC youth, adult allies, and organizations in favor of lowering the voting age in DC to 16.

On April 10, 2018, the [Youth Vote Amendment Act of 2018](#) was introduced in DC Council with seven co-introducers. Vote16DC strongly supports this bill, which would grant voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds in the District. Vote16DC youth and adult leaders believe this is a smart policy idea to bolster civic participation and ensure that young people's voices are taken into account in local policymaking. Research shows that voting is a habit and age 16 is a better time to establish that habit than 18. Turnout data reflects this; in cities that permit 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, they are participating at higher rates than older age groups. This legislation will help young people in DC become lifelong voters. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds in DC work and pay taxes, drive cars, care for family members, and are impacted by nearly every decision DC leaders make. We believe they are ready to vote and that our local democracy will be stronger if they can.

Some cities in the United States – including Takoma Park, Hyattsville, and Greenbelt, MD – already allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections, and several other cities around the country are debating the issue. More than 12 countries around the world allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, including Scotland, Austria, Brazil, and Argentina. However, DC can become the first major US city to make this change and the first US jurisdiction to permit 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in federal general elections as well. Passing the Youth Vote Amendment Act of 2018 would reflect the District's commitment to advancing voter enfranchisement, voting rights, and fairness in representative democracy.

If you are able to, please complete this brief Candidate Questionnaire and send it to [dave.chandrasekaran@vote16dc.org](mailto:dave.chandrasekaran@vote16dc.org).

### **About Vote16DC**

*Vote16DC is a coalition of DC youth, adult allies, and organizations including ACLU DMV High School Youth Union, Amara Legal Center, Break the Cycle, Critical Exposure, DC Action for Children, DC Alliance of Youth Advocates, DC Fiscal Policy Institute, DC YMCA Youth and Government, For the Love of Children, Latin American Youth Center, Life Pieces to Masterpieces, Mikva Challenge DC, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Whitman Walker Health, and YMCA DC Youth & Government Young Women's Project. It is part of [Vote16USA](#), a national initiative of Generation Citizen that supports local efforts to extend voting rights to 16-year-olds.*



**2018 District of Columbia Elections Candidate Questionnaire**

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office:**

**Local**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 Councilmember |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney General       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 Councilmember |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Chairman       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 Councilmember |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At-Large Councilmember | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 Councilmember |

**Federal**

- Delegate to the US House of Representatives
- US Shadow Senator
- US Shadow Representative

**Do you support lowering the voting age in DC to 16?**

- Yes  No

**Please explain your answer below. Attach additional pages if needed.**

**Would you be willing to meet with Vote16DC Youth Leaders to talk more about this issue?**

- Yes  No