

What do you see as the pros and cons, if any, of lowering the voting age eligibility to 16 for D.C. local elections?

I strongly support lowering the voting age eligibility to 16. This step forward should be coupled with civic education in our schools, including the relevance of human rights to DC as the nation's first Human Rights City* (December 2008). The youth of DC, especially from the poorest wards, will only make this option successful if they are treated with respect in their educational experience and by District police and security forces (e.g., housing and WMATA). The end of homelessness and child poverty, which greatly impacts our youth must be a priority goal. Curb public deals/subsidies from DC's revenue going to gentrification and displacement of long-term residents.

*. I was active in establishing the District as an official Human Rights City, and following up with regular assessments of DC's commitment as a member of the Steering Committee of the DC Human Rights City Committee.