

November 8, 2024

Re: Support the development of youth civic capacity

To the members of Toronto City Council,

We the undersigned are writing to urge you to support Councillor Dianne Saxe's motion DM23.1 to extend voting opportunities to 16- and 17-year-olds in neighbourhood polls.

Toronto's neighbourhood polls address important local issues like speed bumps, parking, and Business Improvement Areas.

16- and 17-year-olds have an interest in the safety, accessibility, and vibrancy of their communities. Letting them vote in these polls will give them the chance to develop good civic skills in a low-stakes environment.

Toronto must do more for its young people. Youth unemployment is at its highest level in a decade. Young people are leaving the city faster than ever. If we want young people to feel like they belong in Toronto, we have to show them that we take their input seriously.

By passing this motion, City Council can give 16- and 17-year-olds a substantive voice in shaping their communities.

Sincerely,



Climate Justice UofT



Daily Bread Food Bank



For Our Kids Toronto



Fridays for Future Toronto



Friends and Families for Safe Streets



GTA Disability Coalition



More Transit Southern
Ontario



Parkdale Residents
Association



Policing-Free Schools



Ranked Ballot Initiative of
Toronto (RaBIT)



Samara Centre
for Democracy

Samara Centre for
Democracy



Social Planning Toronto



The Centre for Active
Transportation



Toronto Foundation for Youth
Involvement in Politics



Toronto Indigenous Harm
Reduction



Toronto Public Space
Committee



TTCriders



Vote16 Toronto



Young Politicians of Canada -
Ontario



Youth Leaders in Law Ontario



Youthful Cities