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



Fridays for Future Toronto

🔀 Daily Bread Food Bank

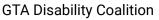
Daily Bread Food Bank





For Our Kids Toronto





Friends and Families for Safe Streets



More Transit Southern Ontario



Ranked Ballot Initiative of Toronto (RaBIT)



Parkdale Residents Association



Samara Centre for Democracy

> TFYIP TORONIC FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Toronto Foundation for Youth Involvement in Politics POLICING-FREE SCHOOLS

Policing-Free Schools





Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction



Vote16 Toronto



Youthful Cities



The Centre for Active Transportation



Toronto Public Space Committee



Young Politicians of Canada -Ontario



TTCriders



Youth Leaders in Law Ontario