



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 31, 2019

The Honorable Evan Low
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for ACA 8 (Low): Elections: Voter Qualifications

Dear Assemblymember Low:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (Low). This legislation proposes to lower the voting age from 18 to 17 years of age in an effort to increase the young voter turnout, coinciding with their introduction to government through secondary education.

By expanding the State voting age, young adults are encouraged to participate in an early lifelong democracy. Ahead of the 2018 Midterm Elections, the City partnered with Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) and local colleges on National Voter Registration Day to promote voter pre-registration, registration, and ballot casting. Should ACA 8 become adopted as State law, the City looks forward to expanding ballot casting outreach amongst 17-year olds to invigorate the State's young voter turnout.

The City supports legislation that increases youth participation in voting and civic engagement. To leverage resources and expand program outreach, the City partners with local high schools, LBUSD Board of Education, County Board of Education and community organizations. The City wholeheartedly commends young adults' passion for civic engagement and believes in retaining their enthusiasm. By lowering the voting age to 17-years old, as proposed by ACA 8, Long Beach youth can amplify their opinions through civic engagement.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports ACA 8 (Low).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District