

City of San José Youth Commission

November 7, 2017

Mayor Sam Liccardo
Members of the City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara St. 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council,

On behalf of the San José Youth Commission, I am requesting the City Council's approval to send the attached letter from the Commission to Assemblymember Evan Low's office. The attached letter will serve as a thank you letter as well as reinstate our stance on the ACA10 bill.

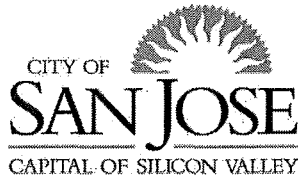
On August 8, 2017, the Commission received an invitation from Assemblymember Evan Low to attend an educational trip to the State Capital. Attendees were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Capitol and were allowed to interact with lobbyists and key members of legislature. The day also included a press conference which highlighted the ACA10 bill. The Commission was not aware that the press conference would be used in support of Low's bill.

The Youth Commission unanimously voted against supporting the ACA10 bill back when it was first introduced to the Commission on April 24, 2017, and in this letter, we not only would like to thank Assemblymember Low for the opportunity to tour the Capitol but also would like to explain the reasons why we do not support this bill.

Therefore, we seek the City Council's approval to send the attached letter to Assemblymember Low's office.

Sincerely;

Katherine Ho,
Youth Commission Chair



City of San José Youth Commission

October 3, 2017

Dear Assemblymember Evan Low,

We, the San José Youth Commission, are writing to you to sincerely thank you for inviting our District 6 Youth Commissioner to visit Sacramento. It was a great opportunity for Commissioner Zazueta to learn more about how the democratic process guides dynamic changes and laws in California. We firmly believe it was an exceptional educational event, and we would like to thank you for the opportunity.

However, based upon an article released by the Mercury News on September 8, 2017 and a recount of the experience by Commissioner Zazueta, who was handed a sign in support of ACA10, it seems that in attending your event, the San José Youth Commission's support of your bill was assumed.

In this letter, we would like to reaffirm our stance of ACA10: The San José Youth Commission does not support this bill. Commissioner Zazueta, as a newly appointed Youth Commissioner, did not participate in our discussion of this bill during the 2016-2017 fiscal year and was thus unaware of our stance. While we believe in your vision to create a more active state in which more young people are more civically engaged, we do not support this bill because of its lack of solvency. We do not believe that lowering the voting age will significantly increase voter participation among younger constituents. In fact, the ratification of the 26th amendment in 1971, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, decreased youth voter turnout from 55.4% in 1972 to 36% in 1988.

Further, we believe that giving the significant civil right to vote to the younger members of California would be unproductive and potentially hazardous. As underdeveloped teens who are still growing and still learning, we believe that 17-year-olds generally lack the experience, knowledge, and political awareness to make educated decisions—for themselves—on the political issues of today.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and tour the State Capital, but the San José Youth Commission would like to make clear our stance against ACA 10.

Best wishes,

San Jose Youth Commission

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