

**Pasadena Human Relations Commission Recommends
Pasadena City Council Place Ballot Measure Granting Voting Rights
in Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Elections
to All Parents* of PUSD Children**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission is to aid the City in achieving better human relations in City government, and to provide assistance to private persons and groups in promoting goodwill and better relations among all people; and

WHEREAS, The Pasadena Human Relations Commission is tasked with engaging in activities designed to aid in the elimination of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination against individuals or groups because of race, religion, national origin, sex or cultural background; and

WHEREAS, The Pasadena Human Relations Commission recognizes that immigrants have been subject to especially high levels of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants comprise a significant portion of the PUSD community (Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, unincorporated Los Angeles County), accounting for over 57,000 of our ~203,000 residents, including ~26,000 of whom are noncitizen; and

WHEREAS, Noncitizen parents account for more than one of every four parents with at least one child enrolled in a PUSD school; and

WHEREAS, PUSD enrolls over 2,400 English-language learners; and

WHEREAS, The criteria to vote in school board elections is determined by the local citizenry as reflected in the Pasadena City Charter; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, voters in the San Francisco Unified School District successfully passed a measure to ensure parental voting rights for their Board of Education regardless of citizenship status; and

WHEREAS, Non-citizens in municipalities and school districts in New York City, Maryland and other communities throughout the nation have, for decades, enjoyed selected and limited voting rights without incident; and

WHEREAS, We believe that all parents should be able to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their child's education with their voice and their vote; and

WHEREAS, We believe all parents of PUSD children are vital partners in the success of their child’s education, the school district and our community as a whole;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Pasadena Human Relations Commission that:

1. It supports efforts to put on the November 2022 ballot a City Charter Amendment granting voting rights in PUSD elections to all parents of PUSD children, regardless of citizenship; and
2. It requests that the City of Council of Pasadena place on their agenda the consideration of a Charter Amendment ballot measure for this purpose for the November 2022 General Election Ballot, in advance of the August 12, 2022 deadline to approve submittal of a Charter Amendment Measure; and
3. It supports an implementation timeline that ensures newly-eligible voters will be able to vote in the November 2024 PUSD School Board elections; and
4. It supports implementation that assures the safety and confidentiality of newly-eligible voters, especially regarding immigration enforcement.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED at the regular meeting of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission conducted on November 2, 2021.

ATTEST:

Brandon Lamar, President
Pasadena Human Relations Commission
City of Pasadena, California

DATE: _____

Confirmation of this action can be found in Minutes of the Commission at:
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/human-relations-commission/>

* For this Resolution “parents” are defined to mean biological parents, foster parents, legal guardians and caregivers.