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Measure to Extend Voting Rights to 16-year-olds for Municipal Elections in SF is Too Close To Call: Prop F near 50% with 114 Thousand Votes Left to Count

Country's First Ballot Measure to Lower the Voting Age in a Major City Sits at 47.3%

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – San Francisco's Proposition F, the nation's first ballot measure to extend voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds for municipal elections, trails 52.7 – 47.3% with 114,000 votes remaining to be counted. The measure's current standing is a marked increase over the first returns announced, which included only mail-in ballots received prior to election day and showed support for Prop F at 44.5%. This upward trend shows that victory is still within reach for Prop F with so many votes left to be counted.

Regardless of the final outcome, the Yes on F campaign has been a bright spot in an election season defined by politics at its ugliest. In the days leading up to the election, the Prop F campaign mobilized more than 170 San Francisco high school students passionate about civic involvement and eager to participate in the political process. Youth contacted more than 45,000 voters in the final week of the campaign to share their message about increasing voter turnout and civic engagement in the long term. This late-stage mobilization built on the previous work of youth leaders who scored endorsements from the city's most prominent political leaders.

"We're optimistic that the remaining votes might push Prop F over the top, but regardless of the final outcome we're incredibly proud of the campaign we ran. Youth changed minds every step of the way, from the elected officials who endorsed the campaign to the 115 thousand plus (and counting) voters who supported the ballot measure. We showed, again, that youth-organizing is powerful. Young people have to confront the issues of today and tomorrow, and San Francisco recognizes that," campaign manager Celi Tamayo-Lee said.

In addition to messages about long-term improvements in voter turnout and civic engagement, the campaign was also tied to a call for the importance of effective civic education. The entire Board of Education supported the measure, and Generation Citizen, a nonprofit that promotes long-term civic engagement through an action-oriented civics education program delivered in 50 Bay Area classrooms annually, played a major role in supporting the Yes on F campaign.

The San Francisco Department of Elections will announce further results today. It is possible that all ballots will not be counted until next week.

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