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Contact:

Brandon Klugman

BKlugman@GenerationCitizen.org

952-836-7172

Greenbelt, MD Voters Approve Advisory Referendum to Lower Voting Age to 16 for Local Elections

City Could Soon Join Takoma Park and Hyattsville in Allowing 16-Year-Olds to Vote in Local Elections After 53% Vote Yes on Referendum Question

GREENBELT, MD – Voters in the city of Greenbelt approved an advisory referendum on extending local voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds at the city's municipal election November 7. More than [53% of voters voted yes](#) on the referendum question, showing yet again that lowering the voting age on the local level is a viable policy idea whose time has come.

Young people on the Greenbelt Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) have been advocating for this change since 2015, and took their message directly to voters in recent weeks by knocking on doors, distributing flyers, and making phone calls. Now, the seven member city council must pass a charter amendment to make the change official.

With the favorable referendum result, Greenbelt is poised to become the third Maryland city to make this change. Takoma Park and Hyattsville lowered their local voting ages in 2013 and 2015, respectively, and have seen positive results. In each city, 16- and 17-year-olds have turned out at higher rates than the overall electorate.

Prior to the advisory referendum, YAC secured support from the city's Advisory Committee on Education and Community Relations Advisory Board.

Vote16USA is eager to continue working with local leaders in Greenbelt, and to partner with youth in other cities and states to move this forward across the country.

Vote16USA is a national initiative that supports youth-led efforts to lower the voting age to 16 on the local level and elevate the issue nationally. It is a project of Generation Citizen, a national, nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that every student in the United States receives an effective Action Civics education.

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