

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR NEW VOTE16 CAMPAIGNS

This community assessment is a series of questions to help you start researching the local climate that you will need to navigate to advocate for a lower voting age in your city. This will help you determine the proper avenue to lowering the voting age, and help you start to shape an argument for 16-year-old voting that fits in the local context of your community.

Try to answer each question, but do not worry if you cannot find answers to some. We are here to help! Feel free to reach out for assistance. When you're done, we will discuss the next steps for a campaign based on the information gathered here.

Political Questions

- What offices are elected on the local level in your community? Mayor, city council, school board? Anything else?
- When are local elections in your community?
- What was the voter turnout in the last local election in your city?
- Do you have a sense of how any city council members might feel about this idea?
- What is the general political climate like in your city? What are voters' values?
- Which organizations or individuals do you think would be good endorsers?
- Do you have access to funding for this work? Any ideas on where to seek funding?

Leadership and Community Questions

- Which group of youth will lead the way? What other groups of young people will you recruit to join the effort?
- Which specific adult mentors do you have already?
- Which specific mentors would you want to recruit? These could be people who have experience with local politics, might have relationships with local politicians or other important stakeholders, and can devote real time and energy to the work.
- How much time do you think your group and your mentors can devote to the campaign? Would it be your top priority, more in the middle, or a low priority?
- Does your high school have a required civics or government class? What grade is it in?

Legal Assessment Questions

- Look at the map on pg. 18 of the [Young Voices at the Ballot Box](#) report. What category is your state?
- Who is responsible for administering elections in your city? (I.e. County Department of Elections, City Board of Elections, etc.)