

Report 2017-1  
May 2, 2017

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)  
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:** Council Referral – Lower Voting Age to 16 for Municipal Elections

**BACKGROUND:** At the Regular Meeting on November 28, 2016, Council referred his matter to CRAB. The City’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) had recommended that the voting age be lowered from 18 to 16 for municipal elections.

**DISCUSSION:** CRAB considered and discussed this referral at meetings on March 21, April 11 and May 2. On March 21, a member of YAC attended the CRAB meeting to discuss YAC’s recommendation and answer questions. On April 10, two CRAB members attended a YAC meeting and briefly discussed this issue. As part of our consideration, CRAB reviewed data from a YAC survey in 2016 and the results of a question on the 2015 City Community Questionnaire. CRAB also reviewed information from the cities of Takoma Park and Hyattsville, who both allow municipal voting at age 16.

**RECOMENDATION:** The City should lower the voting age to 16.

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Ransom, Chair  
Community Relations Advisory Board