

JAMIE RASKIN
20th Legislative District
Montgomery County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Joint Committee on
Federal Relations

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



The Senate of Maryland
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“There is no more invariable rule in the history of society: the further electoral rights are extended, the greater is the need of extending them; for after each concession the strength of the democracy increases, and its demands increase with its strength.” --Tocqueville

April 3, 2013

Dear Mayor Williams and Councilman Male:

I am delighted by your initiative to lower the voting age in the City of Takoma Park to age 16 and want to express my support for it. In 2010 I introduced legislation, which passed the General Assembly, to establish the right to register to vote at age 16 as a way to get young people registered to vote before they graduate and enter the work force or go off to college or into the armed services. This law has dramatically improved voter registration rates and sent young people the right signal about the fundamental importance of voting. Many high school students have told me they have been very excited to register early.

Giving our young people in Takoma Park the right to vote at 16 in municipal elections will promote their civic readiness and democratic awareness. It will encourage teenagers to take a more active part in local affairs by demonstrating our serious interest in their views. And, since it will enlarge the electorate, it will help to revitalize and reenergize our local politics generally. It will make Takoma Park a national leader in integrating young people into our public deliberations and political process.

Again, thank you for your leadership in building a strong democracy in Takoma Park.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Raskin