

REPORT ON TOWN SURVEY

OVERVIEW

- Approximately 1,500 surveys issued to registered voters
- Received 396 total, of which two were paper surveys printed from the Town's website
- Approximately 26% response rate

QUESTION 1:

Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit 16- and 17-year-old residents to vote in Town elections?

RESULTS:

- Total respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 1: 117, or ~ **30%**
- Total respondents who answered "No" to Question 1: 277, or ~ **70%**
- TOTAL: 394*

COMMENTS/GENERAL THEMES:

Yeses:

- Helps young people get involved and become politically active
- Habit of researching candidates and voting starts early

Nos:

- Most still live at home, often do not have much financial responsibility
- Influenced by their parents
- 18 is the legal threshold to adulthood – if we lower the voting age to 16, why not continue lowering it in the future? Slippery slope
- Follow federal voting guidelines
- Want to get youth involved, but in ways other than voting

QUESTION 2:

Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit Town residents to vote in Town elections without requiring them to be US citizens?

RESULTS:

- Total respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 2: 192, or **49%**
- Total respondents who answered "No" to Question 2: 200, or **51%**
- TOTAL: 392*

COMMENTS/GENERAL THEMES:

Yeses:

- If someone lives in Kensington, they should have a say
- Conditions: pay Town property tax, live here for a certain amount of time, can prove they are in the process of obtaining citizenship, are here on some type of visa

Nos:

- Voting is a privilege of citizenship
- Would only be willing if they are legal residents with green card

* There is a discrepancy in the total number of responses for Questions 1 and 2 because six respondents only answered one or the other (4 only answered Q1, and 2 only answered Q2).