

**"We should also be provided for because we will be voting in the future."**

*Xavier Washington, 16, on what he wants to see from the city government.*

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VOTING AND ELECTIONS**



- It's a civic duty and your right!
- Even if you aren't paying them yet, these decisions can impact your school budget, city services and what you have access to.
- Your vote helps decide where your taxes should go.
- results in policies that benefit only a privileged few.
- reflect the needs of a broader population. Low turnout often
- Studies have shown that when turnout is high, policies tend to
- Make your voice heard in policy and leadership.

#### WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE:

All teens can register to vote at 17.5, and some will even be able to vote ahead of time, whether using an absentee ballot or early voting site, as long as they will be 18 on or before Election Day.

You can do it when you apply at the Secretary of State's office for a driver's license, state ID, graduated driver's license or while updating your address.

Then, you're automatically registered to vote!

The voting age may be 18, but you can pre-register to vote as early as 16 under Michigan law?

## DID YOU KNOW ...

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CITY



## A GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



- The Yunion (theyunion.org)
- SER Metro (sermetro.org/program-service/youth-programs-services)
- Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (unideetroit.org)
- YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit (ymcadedetroit.org/programs/academic-enrichment/careerwise)

#### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO CHECK OUT:

**LEARN MORE AT DETROITATWORK.COM/YOUTH**



Operates career academies that connect youth to meaningful work experiences, educational supports and employer partnerships.

#### THE YOUTH CONNECTION (TYC)

**LEARN MORE AT DETROITATWORK.COM/YOUTH**



Offers year-round programs including the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) and WIOA Youth Program. These programs provide career awareness, job readiness training, pre-apprenticeships and internship placements for 14 to 24-year-olds.

#### DETROIT AT WORK

**LEARN MORE AT GDTT.ORG/YOUTH**



Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDTT): The program provides six-week (up to 120 hours) paid summer work experiences for Detroit residents ages 14-24. Placements include community cleanups, retail, event planning and work with local businesses. Applications typically open in the spring (March-May) through the GDTT Application Portal.

#### HOW TO FIND A JOB

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## WHAT YOU TOLD US



BridgeDetroit surveyed teens 13-19 on what they need from their city and their representatives. Here's what more than 400 of you told us:

- Safe, affordable and accessible third spaces and entertainment
- Jobs and career opportunities
- Safer neighborhoods and better access to mental health resources
- To be heard, valued and involved with city government.
- Better roads and public transportation, improved sidewalks and more bike lanes
- More school funding and support

**WANT TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD? SCAN THIS QR CODE TO TAKE THE SURVEY**



BridgeDetroit is a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom providing the information Detroit residents need to be better engaged in civic life. Learn more about us and subscribe to our newsletters at [www.bridgedetroit.com](http://www.bridgedetroit.com)

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# HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT CITY COUNCIL

The Detroit City Council holds a formal (voting) session at 10:00 am every Tuesday. Each meeting starts with public comment. Each commenter is typically allotted two minutes to speak. Once public comment is over, the council can choose to respond to comments or to speakers directly.

To participate in person:

- Use a public comment card to submit your name to be called to the podium to make your comments.

To participate online:

- The administrator of the Zoom meeting will ask whether you'd like to submit comments and then take your name down.

In-person meetings of the City Council are held on the 13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226. The council also convenes four subcommittees.



All meeting information can be found on the City Council page of the City of Detroit website at [detroitmi.gov/government/city-council](https://detroitmi.gov/government/city-council). There, you can find meeting agendas, watch archived meetings or tune in for live sessions.



## YOUR FIRST CIVIC ACTION

### THIS WEEK, TRY ONE:

- ☐ Find your City Council representative
- ☐ Follow your representative
- ☐ Attend a meeting
- ☐ Send an email
- ☐ Ask a question
- ☐ Speak during public comment
- ☐ Talk to three friends about an issue

**"When teenagers feel supported and included, it helps create a stronger and safer community for everyone."**

*Aubreyel Glenn-Gant, 15*

# HOW TO REACH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Knowing how to reach your representatives is one of the most fundamental parts of being a civically aware and engaged citizen. That also goes for teens who are too young to vote for those representatives.

- **Local Issue** → City Council Representative, District Manager, Police Commissioner or Community Advisory Council  
(Districts 4, 5 and 7 only)
- **County Issue** → County Commissioner
- **Statewide Issue** → State House Representatives, State Senators, Governor
- **National Issue** → U.S. Senators or U.S. House of Representatives



For information about other representation, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center. This is your one-stop shop for everything you need to know about voting and representation. Visit [mvic.sos.state.mi.us](https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us)



**"Keep showing up for young people in consistent and meaningful ways. When teenagers feel supported—not just academically, but emotionally and socially—it helps them grow into who they're meant to be. Even small investments in youth can have a lasting impact on how we see ourselves and our future."**

*Lucy Stern, 17, on what she wants to see from her representatives*



Scan this QR Code to use BridgeDetroit's guide to reaching out to your representatives and elected officials.