

# Bay Area Youth Rally Against State Propositions

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OAKLAND, Calif. - Over 150 high school students from Oakland and throughout the Bay Area gathered on October 4 at a conference organized by Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, where they learned about the importance of voting and about issues on November's California ballot.

“There are issues on the ballot that directly affect the health and opportunities of youth,” said youth organizer Amanda Wake. “Even though some of us can't vote, it is still our job to understand how initiatives like Proposition 4, 6 and 8 affect our communities and to take action to ensure they don't pass.”

Proposition 4 is the Abortion Waiting Period Initiative; Proposition 6 is the Safe Neighborhoods Act; and Proposition 8 is the Eliminate the Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry Initiative.

“Youth like me need health care, education, opportunities and support, not unrealistic laws that make it harder for youth to thrive,” said participant Maly Choeun, adding that she intended to encourage her family to register to vote and to vote “no” on Propositions 4, 6 and 8.

The “Youth + Power = Change” conference was endorsed by Oakland Councilmember Nancy Nadel and Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson.