

Judy F. Richardson

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November 3, 2000

The Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in favor of immigrant voting rights in School Committee elections. I was very excited to learn about this campaign and now understand that the issue is soon coming up for a final vote.

During the early 1960's I worked in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, Alabama and Southwest Georgia as a staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). It remains of utmost importance to me that we fight the kind of exclusion which was the crux of our struggle then. Our immigrant community members -- our friends, our neighbors, our fellow parishioners in Church, our store-owners -- are all required to pay taxes, are subject to our laws, and should be included in the democratic process. This is especially true with regard to being allowed to vote on issues concerning their children's education.

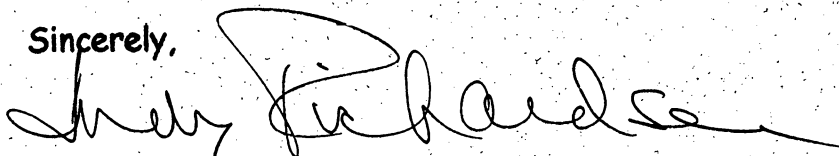
Through the ability of immigrant parents to vote for School Committee members, their children will benefit. First, because, by seeing their parents' involvement, they will better understand the critical importance of participating in the democratic process themselves. Second, because all children must be equally represented at all levels of education in order to ensure and strengthen their future success -- and the success of all children.

I have spent much of my adult life fighting for civil rights in this country, first as an activist and now as a filmmaker ("Eyes on the Prize," "Building on a Firm Foundation" [for Boston's Museum of Afro American History], etc.). Winning voting rights was critical to opening the door for African Americans. I earnestly hope that you will open the door of democracy for immigrants by allowing them to vote in the



interest of their children's education. At a time when too many Americans seem to have given up on public education in this country, we should be working overtime to include, not exclude, those who have a clear interest in the education of their/our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Richardson". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the page.

Judy Richardson

Consent Communication

**Communication from Judy F. Richardson,
239 Allston Street, transmitting her
support for the immigrant voting rights in
School Committee elections.**

In City Council,

November 6, 2000

Placed in file