



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 14th, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Igor Tregub (Author)  
Subject: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds to support of the Raising the Next Generation of Student Advocates (RISE) Program

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$250 per Councilmember from the D13 Discretionary Accounts of members of the Berkeley City Council, including a contribution of \$250 from Councilmember Igor Tregub, and inviting additional Councilmembers to contribute, to support the Berkeley Public Schools Fund's RISE (Raising the Next Generation of Student Advocates) program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Berkeley Public Schools Fund RISE (Raising the Next Generation of Student Advocates) program supports youth leadership, civic engagement, and student advocacy initiatives across Berkeley schools, with a strong focus on equity and access for students who have historically been underserved.

The program provides students many of whom are first-generation youth going to college, low-income students, and students navigating significant personal and systemic challenges, with opportunities to develop leadership skills, elevate student voice, and participate in meaningful projects that strengthen their schools and communities.

Through mentorship, advocacy training, and student-led initiatives, RISE helps young people build confidence, civic awareness, and practical leadership experience, while fostering pathways for long-term educational and personal success.

## **CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

The RISE program operates without a dedicated budget line for program expenses and does not have stable or sufficient funding to support basic student-facing needs. As a result, program staff and students rely on informal fundraising and outside contributions to sustain programming and cover essential costs.

Even modest expenses, such as graduation recognition materials, cannot be covered through program funds and must instead be covered by students. For example, students were required to fundraise for graduation sashes totaling \$595.76 for 30 sashes due to the absence of allocated program funding.

This lack of consistent funding places ongoing strain on both students and staff. Many of the youth served by the program are facing significant life challenges, including housing instability, loss of family support, and other traumatic circumstances. Despite this, the program serves as a critical source of stability, mentorship, and support.

Without additional resources, RISE is limited in its ability to consistently provide student leadership opportunities, recognition, and basic program support aligned with its mission.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No impact to the General Fund. Contributions of up to \$250 per participating members of the Berkeley City Council will come from existing Council Office Budget discretionary accounts.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

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