Letter to the Editor: Youths worked against Question 1 for good reasons


By Kayla Mendonca, Tatiana Cortes, Arthur Thomas, Joseph Monge, Janine Langston (The Youth Community Organizers of Sociedad Latina, Mission Hill)

As young people who are not old enough to vote, we are excited about the outcome of Question 1. Although many of us are not able to vote, we felt that this issue was important enough to organize various events to educate our community on the many possible consequences of eliminating the state income tax. We wanted to make sure that Question 1 did not pass so public schools are not affected in terms of reduced resources such as materials for students, teachers, classroom sizes and transportation. We believe that if the income tax were eliminated it would have caused negative effects on us as youths and as employees of a non-profit organization.

For this reason, we organized youths to go door-knocking in Mission Hill. During this event we visited our fellow community members to educate them about the effects of Question 1. We knocked on doors and got numerous responses of positive feedback, but we could not stop there. On election day, we worked the polls at the Tobin Community Center, holding signs saying “Vote NO on Question 1, it’s a reckless idea.” As young people who are oftentimes ignored when it comes to voting, we were able to have our voices heard by understanding the issues, taking a stance, and sharing our views with others.

Overall, our experiences preventing the passage of Question 1 were worthwhile because we feel we educated the community, not only on the importance of having a state income tax, but also on the power of young people when they are informed and organized. Although we cannot vote yet, we can be heard.