

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE LIFE OF DOLORES HUERTA

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2459-2**

WHEREAS, April 10 marks the celebration of Dolores Huerta's lifelong work as an American labor leader and civil rights activist, and as a co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW). Through UFW, Huerta has worked to protect the rights of farmworkers including worker protection, pesticide use, and immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico, the daughter of Juan and Alicia Fernandez; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta became a school teacher in Stockton, California and became conscious of the need for economic justice when she witnessed her students come to school barefoot and hungry; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s, Huerta met legendary community organizer Fred Ross, Sr. and found her calling as an organizer serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO), during which time she set up voter registration drives, pressed local governments for barrio improvements, and founded the Agricultural Workers Association (AWA); and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's famed lobbying efforts were crucial in securing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and disability insurance for farmworkers in the State of California in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is one of the most prominent Mexican-American labor leaders in the United States; and

WHEREAS, for over 60 years beginning in the 1960s, Huerta lobbied in Sacramento and Washington D.C., organized field strikes, directed UFW boycotts, led farmworker campaigns for political candidates, negotiated the first UFW labor contracts, and has played a major role in the American civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Dolores Huerta founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which recruits and empowers grassroots leaders in low-income communities to attain social justice by organizing volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos (United Neighborhoods) to work on issues in education, health, the environment, civic engagement, and economic development. Dolores Huerta travels the nation speaking to students and organizations about social justice and public policy; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has received numerous awards, among them the California State Senate's Outstanding Labor Leader Award, the ACLU Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, the Consumer's Union Trumpeter's Award, Ms. Magazine's "Woman of the Year" for 1998, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was the first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of California; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Obama presented Huerta the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2644, introduced by Assemblymember Eloise Reyes (AD-47); designating April 10th as Dolores Huerta Day, making civil rights leader and community organizer, Dolores Huerta the first and only living person to hold this honor; and

WHEREAS, her rallying cry of “Sí, se puede” continues to call us to fight for the changes our communities need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, members of society will benefit from having the opportunity to learn more about this leader for social justice and civil rights, empowering them to fight for fair representation, voting rights, and equitable education; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was the focus of a free Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit that was featured by the Santa Clara County Library District at its branch in Gilroy from November 2022 to January 2023; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2644 adds Section 37222.20 to the Education Code, stating “On Dolores Huerta Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Dolores Huerta, recognizing her accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions she made to this state”; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is an organization that operates under four main principles, equity, inclusion, diversity, and partnership. Under these principles, it is important to acknowledge the life and work of civil rights leaders whose work directly impacts our student populations; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE, as the Region 1 lead, provides services to students in the [Migrant Education Program](#) in Santa Clara, San Benito, San Mateo, Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz counties. The general purpose of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education and support services provided to other children; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provides direct services to approximately 450 school-age migrant students within the region; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District opened the Dolores Huerta Middle School in August of 2021. Dolores Huerta attended the school ribbon cutting and spoke about the importance of equitable education for all children; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing and honoring April 10 as Dolores Huerta Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 5, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Charles Hinman, Ed.D.
Interim County Superintendent of Schools