



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONSTITUTION DAY AND CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER EDUCATION WEEKS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2286-1**

**WHEREAS**, Constitution Day is on September 17, 2021, coinciding with California High School Voter Educations Weeks from September 13 – 24, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, are committed to strengthening and motivating students to take an active role in civic processes; and

**WHEREAS**, stated in the 2014 California Assembly Bill 1817 supported by former California Governor, Jerry Brown, California High School Voter Education Weeks is designated by California Education Code to be observed in the last two weeks of April and September. On March 30, 2021, Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber signed the April 19-30, 2021 resolution addressing County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators and High School Principals to participate in the observance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States, a revered and living document, provides important rights to every citizen of the United States, secures “the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,” and sets the standard of democracy for the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution, and its amendments, outline the freedoms and the principles of representative government that are as strong today as they were on that momentous occasion in 1787; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Clara County youth (18 to 24-year-olds) make up 12% of the county’s electorate, and Silicon Valley (Santa Clara and San Mateo counties) youth-eligible voter turnout in 2020 was 63%, a 20% increase since 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to partner with government agencies and community-based organizations to increase civic education and engagement through the initiative called “The Power of Democracy”; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of “The Power of Democracy,” the County Office of Education is partnering with Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (SCCROV) to provide voter education, voter registration, and other election materials to all high schools in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE is in its fifth year of “The Power of Democracy” initiative. In the 2020-21 school year, there were great gains made towards elevating the authentic youth voice with a focus on equity and access, and;

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 the SCCOE in collaboration with SCCROV, League of Women Voters (LWV), Office of Women's Policy (OWP), and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), visited about 60 schools and pre-registered around 1,000 high school students, before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 260,000 students in Santa Clara County, and the 9-12 grade population was 88,161 in 2019. SCCOE encourages youth who are 16 and 17 years old to pre-register to vote, so they can be automatically activated when they turn 18 and begin receiving voting materials; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Clara County has the 5th largest number of 16-17 years olds pre-registered to vote in the state, with a total of 7,661; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2021-2022 school year, the SCCOE Alternative Education, Migrant Education, Opportunity Youth Academy, and Special Education leaders and community will collaborate to develop local criteria so that the students who are directly served by SCCOE will have the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE is partnering with the SCCROV to bring the Educator Ambassadors Program as a part of the My Voice, My Vote Campaign, which promotes and highlights school and community efforts to pre-register and register voters as well as engage in voter education, specifically about Voting Rights in Santa Clara County; and

**WHEREAS**, K-12 classroom teachers are invited to apply for the Educator Ambassador Program that will launch in November 2021; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to affirm its commitment to civic engagement and to encourage Santa Clara County Schools to celebrate Constitution Day and participate in California High School Voter Education Weeks.

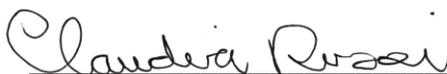
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on August 4, 2021, by the following vote

AYES: President Rossi, Vice President Ortiz and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Kamei and Mah

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools