

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONSTITUTION DAY AND CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER EDUCATION WEEKS

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION No. 2570-1

WHEREAS, Constitution Day is on September 17, 2025, coinciding with California High School Voter Education Weeks from September 15 – 26, 2025; and

WHEREAS, California Secretary of State, Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., and California 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, and supported by former California Governor, Jerry Brown, California High School Voter Education Weeks are designated by California Education Code to be observed in the last two weeks of April and September. On July 30, 2025, California Secretary of State, Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., in partnership with California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, issued a letter encouraging all California high schools to participate in High School Voter Education Weeks, September 15 – 26, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, a living document, reflects valuable ideals expressed through the description of important rights; 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 in 1787; and

WHEREAS, national research on civics education shows that community members, educators, families, and students benefit from equitable civic education in schools that includes the voice of young people; 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 (POD)," now in its ninth year; and

WHEREAS, as part of the POD Initiative, the SCCOE partners with the 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 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; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the 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 September 3, 2025, by the following vote:

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

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Jorge Pacheco

Maimona Afzal Berta, President Santa Clara County Board of Education Dr. David M. Toston, Sr. County Superintendent of Schools