

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
CONSTITUTION DAY AND CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER EDUCATION WEEKS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2447-1**

**WHEREAS**, Constitution Day is on September 17, 2024, coinciding with California High School Voter Education Weeks from September 16 – 27, 2024; 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 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 March 22, 2024, 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, April 15 – 26, 2024; 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**, as of July 2024, 134,546 teens have pre-registered to vote statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Clara County is ranked number five in the state for pre-registration of 16 to 17-year-olds, with a total of 7,072 as of March 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, for the November 8, 2022, election in Santa Clara County, 36,935 adults aged 18-24 turned out to vote in Santa Clara County, which was 32.37 percent of all voter turnout; 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 eighth 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**, in the 2023-2024 school year, the SCCOE in collaboration with the POD Steering Committee hosted its annual convening themed “Youth Innovation for Sustainability” which highlighted youth-led efforts to address climate change, and uplifted sustainability initiatives and activities that young people are leading; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2024, the SCCOE hosted a Youth Civic Engagement Celebration which honored civic engagement efforts happening countywide and recognized youth who are working to make a difference in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, during California High School Voter Education Weeks from September 18 – 29, 2023, and April 15 – 26, 2024, the SCCOE in collaboration with SCCROV, League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Association of University Women (AAUW) San Jose chapter, visited high schools to pre-register high school students to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2023-2024 school year, the SCCOE’s newly developed local criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE) supported 20 students from SCCOE Alternative Education, Migrant Education, Opportunity Youth Academy, and Special Education programs who earned the SSCE; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2022-2023 school year, the California Department of Education distributed 862 seals of civic engagement to be affixed to the diplomas of students in Santa Clara County; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 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 4, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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