

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

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2324-3**

WHEREAS, Constitution Day is on September 17, 2023, coinciding with California High School Voter Educations Weeks from September 18 – 29, 2023; 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 August 17, 2023, California Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber signed the April 17-28, 2023 and September 18-29, 2023 resolution encouraging high school participation in the observance; 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 on that momentous occasion 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, Santa Clara County has grown to hold the 6th largest number of 16-17 years olds pre-registered to vote in the state, with a total of 7,635 as of September 2022; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County has the highest number of pre-registered youth out of all nine Bay Area counties, totaling 128,944 teens in California pre-registered to vote; 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% 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 seventh 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 2022-23 school year, the SCCOE in collaboration with the POD Steering Committee hosted its annual convening titled “Leading in Partnership by Fostering Community: The Power of Democracy,” which honored school personnel and districts that are excelling in the fields of civic and community engagement and featured a youth panel, and;

WHEREAS, in May 2023, the SCCOE hosted a civic engagement expo entitled “Youth Voice Live: Advocacy, Action, and the Arts” which highlighted 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 Educations Weeks from September 18 – 29, 2023 the SCCOE in collaboration with SCCROV, League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Association of University Women (AAUW) San Jose chapter, will visit high schools to pre-register high school students to vote; and

WHEREAS, during the 2022-23 school year, the SCCOE’s newly developed local criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE) supported eight students from SCCOE Alternative Education, Migrant Education, Opportunity Youth Academy, and Special Education programs who earned the SSCE; and

WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 school year, the California Department of Education distributed 1,005 SSCE 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; and

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 6, 2023, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Vice President Sreekrishnan



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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