



SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER EDUCATION WEEKS

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2269-1**

WHEREAS, the last two weeks in September are designated as High School Voter Education Weeks to provide an opportunity for California high schools and their students to partner with county election officials to promote civic engagement and foster an environment that promotes lifelong voters and active citizens, and;

WHEREAS, Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, 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, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has partnered with government agencies, schools, and community-based organizations to increase civic education and engagement through an initiative called "[The Power of Democracy](#)" an initiative committed to strengthening civic engagement within the County. The SCCOE is in its fourth year of The Power of Democracy initiative. In the 2019-20 school year, there were great gains made towards elevating the authentic youth voice with a focus on equity and access, and;

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success by providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities. Resources are provided for such events as Constitution Day, High School Voter Registration Week, Mock Trial, and National History Day, and;

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is in the third year of its Integrated Action Civics Research Group and Community of Practice. A second cohort was started in the 2020-21 school year. This group also launched an Ethnic Studies Initiative in August, and;

WHEREAS, to further promote civic engagement, the SCCOE Alternative Education program participated in the Day Racial Healing in the 2019-20 school year and will do so again this year. The students also created public service announcements for the 2020 election with the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. The SCCOE participated in Youth Voice Live, a webinar series that uplifted and promoted youth participation in democracy and civic engagement. A Santa Clara County Census 2020 Steering Committee created a Census Week Toolkit and hosted a Families Learning Together, and;

WHEREAS, studies have proven that two of the best ways to engage young voters is to provide opportunities to have high-quality civic conversations in the classroom and service learning projects that can affect change on local levels will inspire students to take future action, and;

WHEREAS, the SCCOE supports local districts by creating a nonpartisan online toolkit for educators, including information on the importance of voting, how to pick a political party, pre-registration links, resources for fostering civic discourse, and more, and;

WHEREAS, young people can and are playing a vital role in our democracy by voicing their opinions and helping make decisions through the electoral process, and;

WHEREAS, the California State Voter Registration deadline is October 19, 2020 to participate in the November 3, 2020 election. To vote in California elections, citizens must be registered 15 days before the election takes place, and;

WHEREAS, eligible 16 and 17 year-olds can now pre-register to vote online or by paper. California youth who pre-register to vote will have their registration become active once they turn 18-years-old;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, do hereby adopt this resolution in support of California High School Voter Education Weeks.

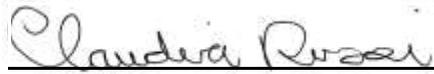
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 16, 2020, by the following vote:

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

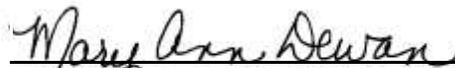
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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