

Youth Commission Annual Report 2025-26



Chair: Amani Shroff

The Team:



**Amani
Shroff**
Chair

**Stanford
University**



**Rikhav
Shah**
Vice Chair

UPenn



**Colin
Chu**
Harvard
University

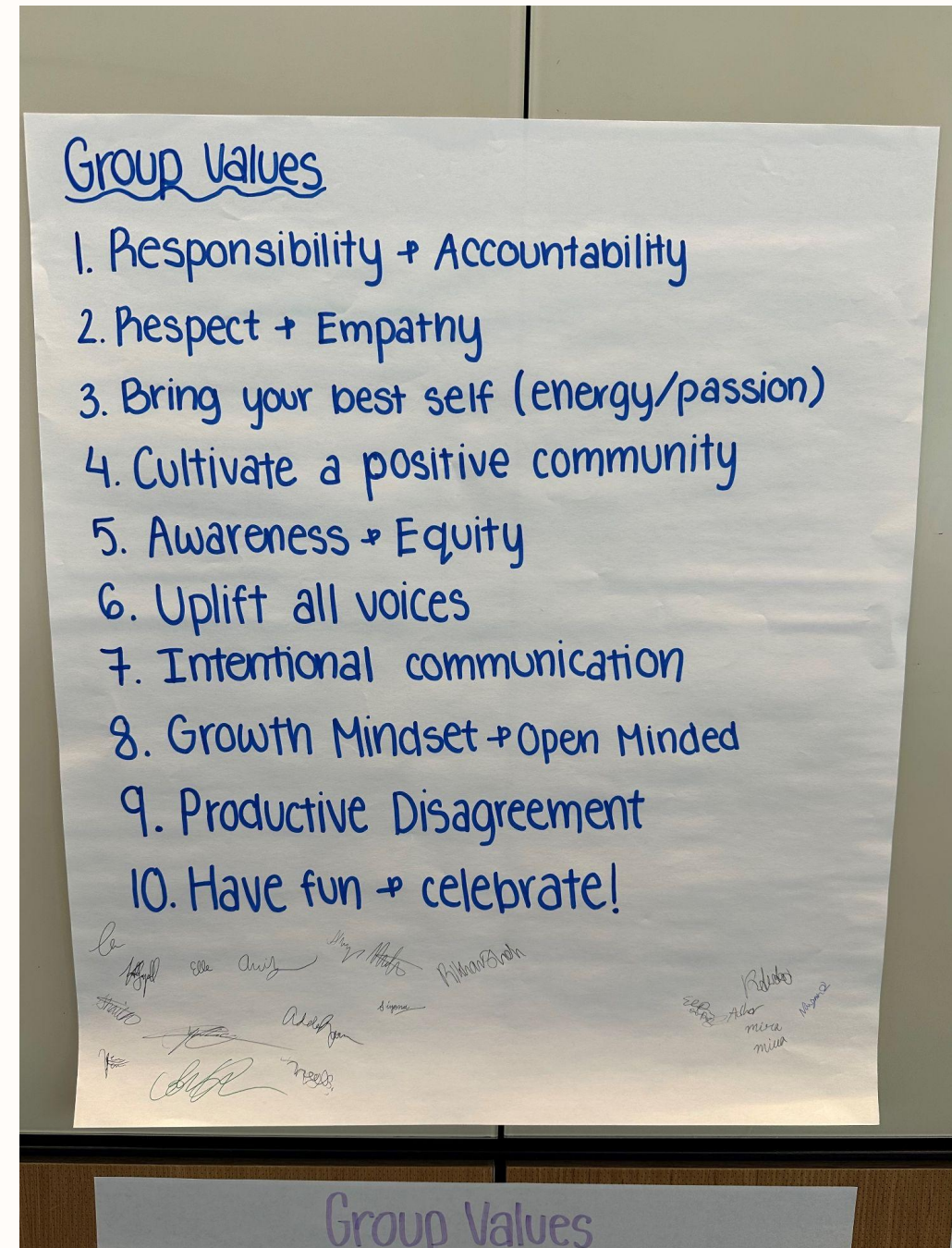


**Soha
Budhani**
UC Berkeley



5 Ad-Hoc Subcommittees established during Fall Retreat:

1. Civic Engagement
2. Educational Equity
3. Environmental Advocacy and Sustainability
4. Health and Wellness



Civic Engagement

Resolution No..

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, State of
California

* * * * *

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING A COMMITMENT TO
EDUCATING YOUTH ON THE HARMS OF
PROBLEM GAMBLING AND DIRECTING SAN
MATEO LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT
CURRICULUMS EDUCATING AND INFORMING
YOUTH ABOUT THE DANGERS OF GAMBLING
ADDICTION.

RESOLVED, by the San Mateo County Board of
Supervisors of the State of California, that
WHEREAS, San Mateo County is dedicated to
keeping the youth of our county properly informed
of harms and setting up our younger generations for
success.

WHEREAS, Gambling, specifically online gambling,
is affecting nearly all youth in our county. Every day,
young people consuming media are bombarded by
unavoidable advertisements promoting online
gambling on mobile apps and websites such as
“DraftKings” and “PrizePicks”. Recently, these



thank
you for
reading!



voter
education
101

created by the SMCYC Civic
Engagement Subcommittee

to learn more about how to vote in
San Mateo County, visit
smcacre.gov/elections/voting



@smcyouthcom

@smcyouthcom



get involved

Voting isn't the only way that you can stay
civically engaged! You can also **volunteer**
with community organizations or **join**
youth advisory boards. Many cities and
school districts have youth advisory
boards, councils, or committees. These
youth advisory groups work to advise their
city or school district's elected officials
and work on projects serving the youth in
their community.

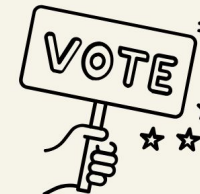
join the SMCYC!

The San Mateo County Youth Commission
(SMCYC) is the advisory commission to
the County Board of Supervisors. It
consists of 25 members between ages 13-
21, who serve and lead projects on 6
different subcommittees: Civic
Engagement, Educational Equity,
Environmental Justice, Health & Wellness,
Immigrant Youth, and Community Equity.
The application process consists of a
written application and interview, and
opens every spring. Learn more at
[www.smcgov.org/ceo/youth-
commission](https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/youth-commission)

what does voting do?

Voting is one of the most important ways
people can have their voices heard and
make a difference in their community,
state, and country!

When **you** vote,
you help
choose the
leaders who
make decisions
about schools,
roads,
healthcare, and
even the
environment.



By participating in elections, **you** become a
part of shaping the future and ensuring
everyone's ideas and needs are
represented!!



how voting works

First, confirm your registration at your
polling place! Then, you'll receive a **ballot**,
which is a piece of paper or electronic
form listing the choices for the election.
Take your time to read the options and
mark your selections.



Then, place your
ballot in a ballot box
to make sure your
vote is counted. If
you voted via a
machine, it will print
out your filled in
ballot for you to
place in the ballot
box.

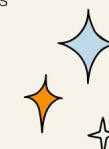
After you finish,
you'll leave with an
"I Voted!" sticker,
a badge of pride
for **making your
voice count**.
Voting is simple,
quick, and an
empowering way
to be involved in
your community!



who do you vote for?

In addition to voting for the President and
Vice President, many other offices and
measures at the federal, state, and local
level may also appear on your ballot:

- **Federal Offices** – congressional
representatives, senators
- **State Offices** – governor, secretary of
state, attorney general, state treasurer,
state senators, state assembly, etc.
- **Judicial Offices** – superior court
judges
- **Local Offices**
 - **County** – county supervisors,
district attorney, sheriff, etc.
 - **City** – mayor + vice mayor, city
councilmembers
 - **Educational Offices** – county
superintendent of schools, county
board of education, school
districts' boards
- **Ballot Measures** – state propositions,
state constitutional amendments,
county + city measures



Educational Equity



To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Education Subcommittee, San Mateo County Youth Commission:
Subject: Supporting Educational Opportunity Through an Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Youth Scholarship

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution affirming the County's commitment to educational equity and youth rehabilitation by supporting the creation of a \$1,000 scholarship program awarded annually for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth ages 13–25 in San Mateo County to assist with educational expenses and workforce preparation.

BACKGROUND:

Youth who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated often face significant barriers to continuing education and building stable futures. These barriers can include disrupted schooling, limited access to academic counseling, financial hardship, stigma, and lack of access to resources that support successful reentry into school, college, vocational training, or other workforce pathways.

In San Mateo County, many young people involved in the juvenile justice system are working to rebuild their lives while navigating obstacles that can make educational success especially challenging. For youth ages 13 to 25, financial support at a critical moment can help cover costs for supplies, textbooks, community college fees, vocational certification expenses, transportation, technology, tutoring, and other education-related needs.

A scholarship specifically designated for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth in San Mateo County's commitment to rehabilitation, second chances, and long-term success. Rather than defining young people by system involvement, this effort would provide support and pathways toward education, employment, and community success.

DISCUSSION:

By adopting this Resolution, the Board of Supervisors would recognize the need for access for system-impacted youth and affirm that all young people deserve meaningful opportunities to succeed.

This Resolution supports the exploration or establishment of a scholarship program for eligible youth ages 13 to 25 who are currently incarcerated or formerly incarcerated. It may be used to support educational advancement, including workforce preparation, college enrollment, certificate programs, and workforce endeavors.

The Resolution also highlights the County's broader interest in reducing recidivism and supporting youth development through education. Investing in educational opportunity is a preventative and restorative strategy that benefits both individual youth and the wider community.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

This resolution would have a direct and meaningful impact on youth in San Mateo County by expanding access to education for some of the County's most underserved young people. For incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth, even modest financial assistance can remove immediate barriers that prevent them from enrolling in courses, obtaining supplies, or pursuing training opportunities.

A scholarship program of this kind would send an important message that San Mateo County values rehabilitation, growth, and educational equity. It would help young people build confidence, reconnect with their communities, and pursue pathways that reduce future justice-system involvement.

The impact on youth extends beyond financial support. By encouraging education and workforce readiness, the scholarship would promote long-term stability, improve self-sufficiency, and strengthen community safety. Supporting system-impacted youth in continuing their education can also improve mental health, reduce isolation, and create stronger outcomes for families and neighborhoods across the County.

More broadly, this resolution would position San Mateo County as a leader in youth-centered reentry support and demonstrate a commitment to investing in young people who are too often overlooked in traditional scholarship opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact would depend on the number of scholarships awarded and on the program's administrative structure. If implemented as an individual pilot scholarship awarding \$1,000 per recipient, costs may be limited and scalable based on available County funds, partnerships, grants, donations, or community-based sponsorships. The San Mateo Youth Commission can manage its recipients, submissions, publicity, and all that ascertains the management of the scholarship.

Environmental Subcommittees

Nature Bus

- Attendees: 35
- In Partnership With SMC Parks



SB 1383 = requires schools recover at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food



Partnered with: **SAN MATEO COUNTY Sustainability Department**

Dear Supervisor Canepa's Office,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Youth Commission, the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee is writing to highlight potential gaps in data transparency and compliance with SB 1383, a state-wide bill that requires public schools, among other institutions, to recover edible food.

In 2025, the County of San Mateo produces an estimated 33 million pounds of edible food - approximately 43 pounds per person - for human consumption, including contributions from institutional sources such as schools. In addition, an estimated 50,000 county residents, including approximately 16% of children, experience food insecurity. A significant portion of food-insecure households, often estimated at 30-40%, are ineligible for federal nutrition assistance programs due to factors such as immigration status or income thresholds.

Current state law **SB 1383 (California Senate Bill 1383)** requires that all Tier 2 generators, which include schools with food facilities, deliver or donate surplus edible food. In addition, all Tier 2 edible food generators must report information on the food recovery organizations or services they donate to, the types of food donated, the estimated quantity of food donated, the frequency of donations, and any contracts or written agreements with food recovery organizations.

To date, the San Mateo County Youth Commission Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee has reached out to the following entities, but we were unable to obtain the requested records, as they were not readily available:

- San Mateo Unified High School District – Board of Trustees
- Jefferson Union High School District – Board of Trustees
- La-Honda Pescadero Unified School District – Board of Trustees
- Sequoia Union High School District – Board of Trustees
- California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) – Public Records Center
- San Mateo County Office of Sustainability – Senior Sustainability Specialist

The collection of edible food recovery data, in compliance with SB 1383, offers several benefits, including but not limited to:

- Supporting school districts to remain accountable in their food recovery efforts
- Encouraging school districts to reduce their edible food waste
- Allowing school districts to identify and expand opportunities to redirect food to students and families
- Providing school districts with information on potential strategies to mitigate future food waste
- Creating a platform to measure improvement in food recovery systems over time

Therefore, the Youth Commission respectfully recommends that Supervisor Canepa:

1. Request a status update from San Mateo County public school districts on compliance with SB1383 food waste recovery and edible food recovery record protocols.
2. Explore opportunities to collaborate with the Board of Education, and, if appropriate, the San Mateo County Youth Commission, in potential enforcement of compliance with the law for all Tier 2 generators.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting San Mateo County to become a more sustainable and equitable place for youth. We look forward to your reply and continued interest and involvement in this advocacy.

Sincerely,
Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee, San Mateo County Youth Commission

Our official requests of 1) **compliance** with protocols and 2) opportunities for **enforcement**

The Youth Commission voted and approved the letter to be sent to Supervisor Canepa's Office on April 23, 2026



Health & Wellness

Move for Mind 5k

- 200 Registrations
- 51 Walk Ins
- 6 Resource Tables



Civic Cafe

We coordinated the Youth Commission's first county-wide civic-engagement event!

Guest Speakers

Congressman Liccardo

Assemblymember Berman

Youth Presentations

California Association of Youth Commissions

SMC Youth Commission

SMC Office of Education

Youth Leadership Institute

Tablings

SMC YVAC

Futures Commission

Over 70 attendees from across the San Mateo County!



Keynote Speaker
Congressman Sam Liccardo

Join at
slido.com
#4203 072



Civic Café!

Tools for youth to participate in local government!

January 31st
11:00AM - 2:00PM

Regional Operations Center
501 Winslow St, Redwood City, CA 94063

Menu

Sign-Up



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH

All together better.



Youth Liaisons



Looking Ahead...

What should be the Youth Commission's top priorities for the coming year?