

# 2020-2021 Youth Commission BOS Presentation



# Executive Team 2020-2021

**Chair** - Sathvik Nori

**Co-Vice Chairs** - Javier Nino-Sears & Lilian Chang

**Secretary** - Vikram Seshadri



# Committees for 2020-2021

27 members; all virtual meetings

<b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Conservation; sustainability; waste; climate change; sea level rise</li></ul>	<b>Immigrant Youth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Societal inequities; xenophobia; promotion of resources</li></ul>	<b>Civic Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Policy analysis; youth voter engagement/registration; Census 2020</li></ul>
<b>Education and Economic Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Education during COVID-19; economic recovery; anti-racist education</li></ul>	<b>Health and Wellness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mental health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention;</li><li>- State of Youth Report</li></ul>	

# Immigrant Youth Scholarship Overview

- Continued a scholarship for outstanding immigrant youth who lack financial resources for college
  - Reached out to every high school in San Mateo County
- Constructed application + essay questions to help guide our selection process
- Received 19 applications
- Awarded \$1000 dollars to each of the 5 recipients

A poster for the San Mateo County Youth Commission's Immigrant Youth Committee. The poster features a white background with orange and black illustrations of school supplies: a stapler, a pencil, a ruler, and a pair of scissors. The text is centered and reads: "SAN MATEO COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION'S IMMIGRANT YOUTH COMMITTEE" in black, "IMMIGRANT YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP" in large orange letters, "A \$1000 academic scholarship for outstanding immigrant youth from 12th grade-25 years old in San Mateo County" in black, "Application Deadline: April 30th, 2021" in orange, and "Apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/IYC2021>" in orange. At the bottom, it lists contact information for Javier Niño-Sears and Misty Hommerding in black, and a QR code in the bottom left corner.

SAN MATEO COUNTY YOUTH  
COMMISSION'S IMMIGRANT YOUTH  
COMMITTEE

## IMMIGRANT YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

A \$1000 academic scholarship for  
outstanding immigrant youth from 12th  
grade-25 years old in San Mateo County

**Application Deadline: April 30th, 2021**  
**Apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/IYC2021>**

For more information, contact:  
**Javier Niño-Sears**  
Chair, Immigrant Youth Committee  
[javierninosearse@gmail.com](mailto:javierninosearse@gmail.com)  
**Misty Hommerding**  
Program Coordinator  
[mhammerdingesmcgov.org](mailto:mhammerdingesmcgov.org)



# Census Newsletter

- Informing communities about the census
- Translated into multiple languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog)
- Sent out to all San Mateo County High Schools
- Sent to other Youth Commissions in California
- Included great information letting people know about how to fill out the Census



2020年人口普查  
你要知道的事

**关键点:**

- 包括 所有家庭成员
- 收集 基本信息
- 请在9月30日前完成 [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
- 资助关键计划
- 可以在线操作, 或通过邮件、电话来完成

由创建SMCYC  
公民参与委员会

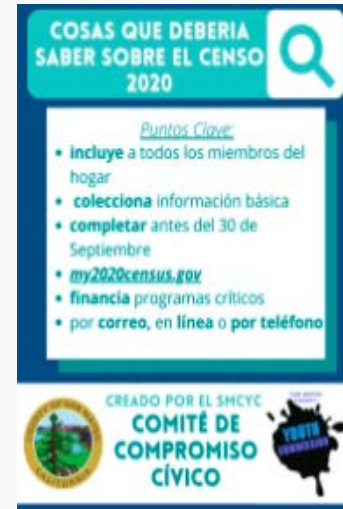


THINGS TO KNOW  
ABOUT CENSUS 2020

**Key points:**

- includes all members of a household
- collects basic information
- complete by September 30th
- [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
- funds critical programs
- by mail, online, or by phone

CREATED BY THE SMCYC  
CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE





COSAS QUE DEBERIA  
SABER SOBRE EL CENSO  
2020

**Puntos Clave:**

- incluye a todos los miembros del hogar
- colecciona información básica
- completar antes del 30 de Septiembre
- [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
- financia programas críticos
- por correo, en línea o por teléfono

CREADO POR EL SMCYC  
COMITÉ DE  
COMPROMISO  
CÍVICO



# Gen Z Voter Conference - October 2nd and 3rd

- Held conference with My School Votes
- Worked with Immigrant Youth Committee for panel
- Phonebanked with Reclaim our Vote
- Over 100 attendees
- Featured keynote speaker Assemblymember Kevin Mullin

## OUR CONFERENCE AUDIENCE!



## GEN Z VOTER CONFERENCE

October 3 - October 4

Ages: 20 & under ▶ 10am - 3pm

<http://bit.ly/GenZvoters>

## HIGHLIGHTS

Getting the vote out,  
penpals, speakers, panelists & a  
Hamilton screening!

Norcal Youth Empowering  
Youth Conference

Y2Y: Youth to Youth

Welcome! We will get started  
in a few minutes

Coordinated by the Civic Engagement Committee  
Of the San Mateo Youth Commission



Changemakers Panel

Please welcome these Changemakers!

Ashlyn So, Youth Organizer

Oliver Ye, President, Silicon Valley Youth

Grace Xia, Asian Uplift

Davina Hurt, Councilmember, Belmont City Council

Amourance Lee, Councilwoman, San Mateo

Lauren Fitzgerald, Grassroots Law Project

Khemmis Fisher, Youth Leadership Director, MQSAIC

Antonio Lopez, Councilmember, East Palo Alto

Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier, Councilmember, East Palo Alto



## "The NorCal Youth Empowerment Conference -- Youth To Youth (Y2Y)

- 1) To provide inspirational speakers and information to provide motivation and inspiration for civically minded youth,
- 2) To share ideas, projects, and resources so that youth can grow their ideas rather than to work in isolation in every school and club, and
- 3) To provide lasting contacts and build a network so that youth can develop network connections in their area of interest. There can be a lot of power in working together and uniting like-minded minds.

### 170 registered youth from 26 cities in the Bay Area

- Mostly high school with some 8th grade and a few college
- Attendees from: Redwood City; Belmont; San Carlos; Menlo Park; San Mateo; East Palo Alto; Foster City; Woodside; Los Altos; Mill Valley; San Ramon; Sunnyvale; Burlingame, Fremont, Gilroy, Hillsborough, Millbrae, Pescadero; Petaluma; San Bruno; San Francisco; San Jose; San Pablo; San Rafael; Saratoga; Union City
- Local officials included: Congresswoman Jackie Speier; State Senator Josh Becker; Retired State Senator Jerry Hill; Anthony Chavez; Youth Poet Laureate Madeleine Hur; East Palo Alto Councilman Antonio Lopez; East Palo Alto Councilwoman Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier; Belmont City Councilwoman Davina Hurt; Redwood City Councilman Jeff Gee; San Mateo City Councilwoman Amourance Lee; SUHSD Board Member Shawneece Stevenson
- ***"I loved how this conference informed us about how to take small steps and changes to make it better for our communities."***
- ***"(This conference) made me feel heard and seen"***
- ***"Chavez' speech remind(ed) me of all the power I hold to voice my beliefs as a youth"***



# Peer Court

- Establishing a diversion program for youth in the county
- Gathered a group of youth volunteers
- Trained youth on restorative justice





# Ethnic Studies Letter

- Urged districts to adopt student-faculty task forces to implement Ethnic Studies curricula
- Outreach is a project opportunity for next year

**Date:** November 2020

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** The San Mateo County Youth Commission and San Mateo County Office of Education Student Advisory Committee

**Subject:** Ethnic Studies in San Mateo County



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The San Mateo County Youth Commission and the Student Advisory Committee of the San Mateo County Office of Education serve to convey the youth perspective to community leaders. In light of racial justice protests in San Mateo County and around the world, as well as the failure of AB331, which would have mandated an Ethnic Studies curriculum throughout California, we, the youth of San Mateo County, attest that our county still urgently needs Ethnic Studies as part of a comprehensive expansion of education to combat systemic racism.

Melina Abdullah, a professor of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, credits Black Studies at her East Oakland high school with her inspiration to attend college.<sup>1</sup> As a scholar, she highlights that many minority students feel disconnected from school because they “don’t encounter topics that speak to their backgrounds,” but when students take Ethnic Studies classes, “they find themselves.”<sup>2</sup> These classes help disadvantaged youth to embrace their backgrounds and have faith in their future abilities.

Indeed, Stanford University researchers have quantified this value of Ethnic Studies. From 2010 to 2014, educational scientists followed two cohorts of struggling students at a San Francisco high school, one which received Ethnic Studies instruction (covering discrimination, stereotypes, and social justice movements) and one which did not. Students who took Ethnic Studies were less likely to drop out of high school. The study found significant improvements among the Ethnic Studies participants: a 21% increase in attendance, a 1.4 point increase in grade point averages, and a mean of 23 more credits earned towards graduation.<sup>3</sup>

The students of San Mateo County have need for such improvements. From 2018-19, the county’s high school graduation rates and college/career readiness were broken down by students’ ethnicities. San Mateo County measured A-G Completion, the minimum admission requirements for the University of California, for graduating seniors and found only 43% of students fulfilled these prerequisites. The college readiness of multiracial students was barely above average, at 46%, while only 22% of Hispanic students, 19% of African American students, 13% of American Indian students, and 10% of Pacific Islander students fulfilled the minimum requirements. As effective motivators of academic engagement, Ethnic Studies should be included as a mandatory part of the curriculum in every high school in San Mateo County.

<sup>1</sup>Nina Agrawal, “Overruling Cal State trustees, Newsom approves new ethnic studies requirement,” Los Angeles Times, last modified August 17, 2020, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-17/gavin-newsom-ethnic-studies-cal-state-ab-1460>.

<sup>2</sup>Lindsay McKenzie, “Is It Time for All Students to Take Ethnic Studies?,” Inside Higher Ed, last modified October 22, 2020, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/10/22/adding-ethnic-studies-college-curricula-has-long-been-controversial-moment-different>.

<sup>3</sup>Brooke Donald, “Stanford study suggests academic benefits to ethnic studies courses,” Stanford News, last modified January 12, 2016, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://news.stanford.edu/2016/01/12/ethnic-studies-benefits-011216/>.

# COVID-19 Safety Infographic

- Reached out to schools to publicize a graphic promoting quarantine information and social distancing procedures
  - Outlined the definitions/guidelines for purple/red tier
  - Provided information on COVID variants, most effective masks
  - Promoted social distancing/vaccination

DEC. 2020 | HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE OF SMC

## SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDE

### CONTENTS

- Our Purple Tier Status
- Red Tier Status
- SMC Youth Cases
- The Last 30 Days
- Mask Usage
- Most Effective Masks
- Distancing Rules
- Safest Procedures
- Hand Washing
- Vaccines
- Pfizer and Moderna

### PURPLE TIER STATUS

What it means:  
Purple tier indicates that the virus is widespread:

- In every 100,000 residents, there are 7+ new cases
- 8%+ tests are reported positive each day
- **INDOOR GATHERINGS ARE PROHIBITED IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### RED TIER STATUS

What it means:  
Red tier indicates that the virus has substantial spread:

- In every 100,000 residents, there are 4-7 new cases
- 5-8% tests are reported positive each day
- **INDOOR GATHERINGS ARE USUALLY LIMITED (25-50%)**

San Mateo County is expected to move from Purple to Red Tier soon

San Mateo County Youth Cases:  
Total: **3,972** cases  
(Through 2/7/21)



# Climate Emergency Declaration

- Goal was to coordinate a countywide high school district Climate Emergency Declaration



Waste and consumption, transportation, sustainable watersheds, marine ecosystems, land based ecosystems and grounds, green buildings, food and nutrition, energy, air quality, and environmental literacy

## [School District] DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

A resolution of the [school district] expressing the urgency of climate change, and calling upon School District Boards to consider passing Climate Action Plans in all [# of campuses] in a **timely manner**.

WHEREAS, time is of the essence; the actions we do or do not take now and in the next few years will determine the intensity of climate change and its consequences for generations to come; and,

WHEREAS, San Mateo County, sits in an ecologically sensitive area between the Santa Cruz Mountain Range and the San Francisco Bay estuarine shoreline, and every school district in the county will be impacted as the effects of climate change (floods, drought, biodiversity loss, high heat day frequency) escalate; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is inherently threatening the health and well-being of all San Mateo County youth through climate disruptions; and,

WHEREAS, the State of California has enacted policies and provided guidance for reducing the state's ecological footprint through green facilities and operations, prioritizing environmental education in curriculum and instruction, and advocating for children and youth to spend time playing and learning outdoors; additionally, the San Mateo County has taken a number of measures address climate change, "facilitating the Regional Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) program that brings together the County and its 20 cities to plan and implement measures to reduce GHG emissions; launching Climate Ready SMC to better prepare San Mateo County for the changing climate," (San Mateo County Climate Emergency Resolution); and

WHEREAS, the [San Mateo County Board of Supervisors](#) has invited all cities and other local jurisdictions and agencies to also approve a Climate Emergency Declaration; and,

WHEREAS, the [school district] has a responsibility of providing community members with physical, emotional, and intellectual safety, allocating consideration to the current and future impacts of climate change; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. We, the [School District] declare a climate emergency requiring immediate and effective



# Youth Commissioner Liaisons



# Recommendations

- **COVID-19** - As we finally emerge from the Pandemic, we must take steps to help support lower-income youth, whose families struggled financially during the pandemic
- **Education:** Reinvest in solutions to insure a full-return to in-person school for the upcoming year. Focus on the needs of minority youth who struggled especially hard with Distance learning.
- **Civic Engagement:** increase opportunities (like the YC) for youth to be engaged in local government. Especially important for issues like education that directly impact youth.
- **Restorative Justice:** Ensure that vulnerable populations of youth (such as those who are incarcerated) have access to increased support systems. Build on the model of restorative justice that the Pandemic has forced us to adopt.
- **Environment:** Encourage both public and private organizations within San Mateo County to examine their sustainability practices and implement measures to make themselves more Green.

# Recognitions

Thank You!