

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH “LET SAN MATEO COUNTY VOTE WEEK” THE
SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2024, TO
ENCOURAGE VOTING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACROSS SAN MATEO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, voting is the primary tool with which to form a government with the consent of the governed, and as such, the right to vote is foundational to achieving representation, accountability, and protection of all other rights; and

WHEREAS, from the founding of the United States of America until 1868, the full rights and protections of citizenship, including the right to vote, were extended only to white men aged 21 and older, and for much of that period, only to white men aged 21 and older who owned land; and

WHEREAS, the destiny of this country has been continually reshaped, remade, and re-founded by those who fought injustice to have full access to the rights and protections of citizenship, beginning with the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1868, granted full citizenship rights to all men born or naturalized in the United States; the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1870, barred racial barriers to the right to vote; the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1920, granted women the right to vote; the Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1964, barred poll taxes; and the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1971, granted citizens the right to 20 vote at the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the passage of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments to the United States Constitution, states and local jurisdictions across the country restricted access to the right to vote on the basis of race, and indeed, some forms of institutionalized voter suppression continue to this day; and

WHEREAS, a Public Policy Institute of California poll from August of 2022 found that Latinos are dramatically underrepresented among likely voters. While Latinos make up about 35% of the state's adult population, they only account for 22% of likely voters. Meanwhile, Whites make up 40% of California's adult population but 55% of likely voters; and

WHEREAS, 54.4% of registered voters and 44.5% of eligible voters in San Mateo County voted in the 2020 primary election; and

WHEREAS, the Center of Inclusive Democracy of University of Southern California found that, in the 2020 election, Asian-American and Latino voters had markedly lower eligible voter turnout than the general population rate, young voters (aged 18 to 24) had lower eligible and registered voter turnout rates than older voters (aged 65 and over), and U.S.-born voters had higher registered voter turnout rates than foreign-born voters; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo has improved access to voting and election information through Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot, Accessible Vote at Home Service, Accessible Sample Ballot and Curbside Voting; and

WHEREAS, the foundational importance of the right to vote in free and fair elections justifies and requires vigilant protection and active encouragement at every level of government, necessitating the implementation of new action to eliminate

barriers to voting and encourage civic engagement in order to counter both historic and contemporary barriers that intentionally discourage voting and participation in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, for every election, voter and civic education are essential to ensure that all constituents are informed of their rights, their political system, the contests they are being asked to decide, and how and where to vote; and

WHEREAS, establishing a week that recognizes the important action of voting will encourage County of San Mateo residents and County employees to register to vote and to vote in every federal, state, and local election, including regular elections, special elections, and run-off elections; and

WHEREAS, County of San Mateo residents and County employees who cannot vote, who choose not to vote, or who have voted by mail-in ballot or during early election periods will be encouraged to take action during a week that recognizes the important action of voting in the spirit of civic engagement and democratic participation;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County establishes that the second week in October of each year beginning in 2024 shall be known in the County as Let San Mateo County Vote Week to encourage voting and civic engagement, and to honor the sacrifices and struggle for the right to vote throughout the history of the United States to the present day.

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