

SONOMA COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT

Resolution in Support of California Proposition 16, Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment (2020)

Resolution Number 22-20

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Junior College District serves an ethnically diverse community, and has served more than 1.7 million students in its more than 100-year history; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has assigned top priority to equity, inclusion, and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Junior College District Board of Trustees unanimously passed Resolution 15-20, and committed to being active participants in the continuing and necessary struggle to create a more equitable and anti-racist community at SRJC; and

WHEREAS, since becoming law in 1996, Proposition 209 has exacerbated the risk for unequal opportunities in employment, access to high-quality education, and access to fair contracting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed state constitutional amendment (first introduced as California Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5) Proposition 16 would repeal provisions enacted pursuant to Proposition 209, which banned any consideration of traditionally underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, according to Assembly member Shirley Weber (D-79), the principal sponsor of the constitutional amendment and chairwoman of the California Legislative Black Caucus, Proposition 209 has cost women- and minority-owned businesses \$1.1 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, for California's community colleges, the enactment of Proposition 209 has made it challenging to reflect the diversity of the student body through the hiring of diverse faculty, staff, and administration; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 16 would create equal opportunities for all Californians by restoring the consideration of race and gender in public contracting, public employment, and public education; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 16 asks California voters if they would like to repeal provisions of Proposition 209, which prohibits public institutions, including community colleges, from making race and gender-informed decisions to advance their respective missions; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 years after the enactment of Proposition 209, it is clear that the proposition has hurt, not helped, California by prohibiting time-tested affirmative action programs that bolster education and job opportunities for underserved communities.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Junior College District Board of Trustees supports Proposition 16, which would repeal provisions of Proposition 209 and reinstate affirmative action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor to provide the Board's resolution to members of the legislature, statewide organizations, local community and business organizations and leaders, and others who can assist in securing passage of this important amendment to the California Constitution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of August, 2020 by the following vote:

Student Trustee – Jocelyn Toscano*	_____
Trustee Dorothy Battenfeld	_____
Trustee Jordan Burns	_____
Trustee Don Edgar	_____
Trustee Maggie Fishman	_____
Trustee Jeff Kunde	_____
Trustee W. Terry Lindley	_____
Trustee Mariana Martinez	_____

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent/Abstaining:

*Student Trustee – Advisory Vote

Secretary to the Board of Trustees