

Yolo County Board of Education and Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

Resolution #24-25/3 Disability Voting Rights Week — September 9-13, 2024

WHEREAS, Disability Voting Rights Week is about protecting the rights of people with disabilities to participate fully in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, voting is the foundation of our democracy, and all voters should have the right to an accessible, private and independent option to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, there were over 38 million people with disabilities who are eligible to vote but access barriers keep many disabled voters from accessing their right to vote, comprising nearly one-sixth of the American electorate; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Yolo County is home to nearly 20,000 voting-age residents with some type of disability according to the 2021 American Community Survey; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities make up the largest minority in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the disability community has a critical interest in policies and decisions made and enacted at local, state, and national levels that impact their lives directly; and

WHEREAS, states are seeing an increasing population with mobility, visual, communicative, physical, and/or cognitive impairments; and

WHEREAS, making sure people with disabilities have access to voting is essential if these policies are to meet the real needs of people with disabilities in our communities; and voting is one way for the disability community to have a say in the people and policies that impact our communities; and

WHEREAS, according to a Rutgers University study commissioned by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, over 80% of voters with disabilities reported voting independently without any difficulty in 2020; and

WHEREAS, much of the recent progress for supporting voters with disabilities has occurred in the last 20 years since the passage of the Help America Vote Act passed in 2002; and

WHEREAS, there is still much work to do to fulfill the Help America Vote Act's promise of accessible elections for all people with disabilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools that September 9-13, 2024 is recognized as Disability Voting Rights Week and the community is encouraged to highlight the ongoing work to support voters with disabilities throughout the voting process; and

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools at a meeting held on August 13, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Esquivel, Moreno, Salud-Ambriz, Yip

NOES: None

ABSENT: Zendejas

Shelton Yip, President

Yolo County Board of Education

Garth Lewis

Yolo County Superintendent of Schools