

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALIFORNIA STUDENTS VOTE PROJECT

WHEREAS, a civically engaged electorate is vital in order for our democracy to function effectively.

WHEREAS, sixty-three percent of freshmen entering California community colleges in 2015 had recently reached voting age, or will soon reach voting age, the 2016 general election will be this group's first opportunity to participate an election; and,

WHEREAS, young adults play a critical role in our democracy by helping to choose the people who will lead us; and

WHEREAS, in the 2014 general election only 8.2 percent of 18 – 24 year olds cast ballots;

WHEREAS, college students are encouraged to participate in our democracy through civic and voter education programs, volunteering as poll workers, and by encouraging their peers, family members, and community to register to vote and participate in elections; and

WHEREAS, The California Student Voter Registration Act (SVRA) requires every community college and California State University (CSU) campus to allow its students to register to vote during the class registration process using a link to California's online voter registration system; and

WHEREAS, Only 38,514 students have registered through an official campus Online Voter Registration (OVR) link as of 2014, while California college systems have a combined student enrollment of 2.8 million (2014-2015 academic year); and

WHEREAS, having a higher number young community college students involved in the election process can lead to lifelong voting habits and can improve the quality of life for all Californians; and

WHEREAS, California's Secretary of State, who serves as the state's chief elections official, is committed to strengthening our democracy by encouraging voter registration and increasing participation in all elections by all eligible Californians, including eligible students; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our community college administrators and leaders participate in the California Students Vote Project spearheaded by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla in partnership with the California Lieutenant Governor, CalPIRG, California Common Cause, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the California Community Colleges Board of Governors encourages all 72 districts and 113 colleges that constitute the system of the California community colleges to participate in the **California Students Vote Project**.