





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: September 19-20, 2016

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: Voter Registration and Civic Engagement | | Item Number: 2.4 | |
| | | Attachment: Yes | |
| CATEGORY: | Executive | TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION: | |
| Recommended By: |  Paul Feist, Vice Chancellor | Consent/Routine | |
| | | First Reading | |
| Approved for Consideration: |  Erik Skinner, Interim Chancellor | Action | X |
| | | Information | |

ISSUE: To increase voter registration among students attending college campuses in California, the Secretary of State’s office in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor’s Office and three nonprofit organizations, CalPirg, California Common Cause and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus are sponsoring a project to support colleges with voter registration efforts. The California Student Voter Registration Coalition is working with all three segments of public higher education in the state to improve youth voter participation and seeks the Board of Governors approval of the attached resolution endorsing the partnership.

BACKGROUND: Only 8 percent of eligible youth aged 18 to 24 voted in the 2014 general election, according to the California Students Vote Project, and only 52 percent of eligible youth were even registered to vote, more than 20 percentage points below any other age group. A report by the Secretary of State revealed that from January 2014 to February 2015, just 8,545 of the 2.8 million students attending public colleges and universities registered to vote through an online opportunity provided by their campus. The California Students Vote Project is promoting best practices aimed at increasing the number of students who register. Strategies include making voter registration links highly visible on college web sites, sending all-campus emails before registration deadlines, promoting on-the-ground registration efforts in high traffic central locations on campuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors express official support for this effort by approving the resolution.