

SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION # 2425-11

Constitution and Citizenship Day September 17, 2024

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution has withstood the test of time for more than two centuries as our Nation's charter of government and the guarantor of our liberties. Signed in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787, this founding document reflects our core values and enshrines the truths set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that we are each endowed with certain unalienable rights. As the beneficiaries of these rights, all Americans have a solemn obligation to participate in our democracy so that it remains vibrant, strong, and responsive to the needs of our citizens. To succeed, the democracy established in our Constitution requires the active participation of its citizenry.

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1787, delegates convened in Philadelphia to create a more perfect union and to craft the country's constitution, developing a framework that would provide balance and freedom, considering federal and state interests as well as individual human rights; and

WHEREAS, Each of us has a responsibility to learn about our Constitution and teach younger generations about its contents and history. By fulfilling civic duties, engaging government at the local, State, and Federal level, and volunteering in our communities, individual citizens can better our country and breathe life into the freedoms established in the Constitution. The right to participate in self-government, and the many other freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, inspire the dreams and ambitions of many inside and outside our borders.

WHEREAS, on February 29, 1952, President Harry Truman signed into law "Citizenship Day"; and

WHEREAS, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined event that is annually observed in the United States on September 17; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that every citizen of the United States, whether native-born or foreign-born, should on September 17 of each year give special thought and consideration to his rights and responsibilities under our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, We as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through these documents our founding fathers created; and

WHEREAS, The civic culture that defines the United States can be sustained As long as each generation develops a deep understanding and Commitment to the principles of our founding documents and, Accordingly, it is vital that every American be educated in the Knowledge of our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Informed citizens are necessary to exercise and exhibit responsible and civic knowledge, which will ensure the preservation of our form of constitutional self-government; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional self-government places a tremendous degree of responsibility and trust upon the citizens who are to govern themselves; and

WHEREAS, Section 111 of the "Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2005" established a new statutory requirement for implementation of an educational program, pertaining to the United States Constitution, designated by statute as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day "Constitution Day"; and

WHEREAS, Section 111(b) of PL 108-447 states that an "educational institution, which receives Federal funds for a fiscal year, shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution"; Therefore,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Rafael City Schools Board of Education recognizes September 17, 2024 as the Constitution and Citizenship Day, and encourages all District staff to offer educational programs to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution so that both native-born and naturalized citizens may have a fuller understanding of their rights and privileges and of their obligations and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on September 9, 2024, by the Governing Board of the San Rafael City Schools, by the following vote,

Lucia Martel-Dow	_____
Carolina Martin	_____
Maria Palma	_____
Mark Koerner	_____
Maureen de Nieva Marsh	_____

Lucia Martel-Dow
Board President

Carmen Diaz Ghysels
Superintendent