

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing March 1-31, 2026
As National Women's History Month**

WHEREAS, Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California, for one week. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women first planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, Women's roles as caregivers - whether as mothers, grandmothers, sisters, or aunts (biologically or not) - have nurtured generations, helping to provide the foundation for countless advancements in justice, culture, and society; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background throughout our history have, despite hardship, exclusion, and discrimination, strived and sacrificed for equity and equality in communities across the country and have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, From the early 1800s, women fought to end slavery. In the late 1800s, suffragists, including Californian leaders Ellen Clark Sargent and Alice Park of San Francisco, played an important role in the broader movement that culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, ensuring that no American could be denied the right to vote on the basis of sex. Nine years earlier, in October 1911, suffragists in California successfully campaigned for the state to become the sixth in the nation to grant women full voting rights.

WHEREAS, In the decades since, women have continued to advocate for civil rights, contributing to landmark achievements such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and ongoing efforts to secure the Equal Rights Amendment, originally approved by Congress in 1972. That same year, Title IX of the Education Amendments was enacted to prevent sex-based discrimination in education, expanding opportunities for young women in academics and athletics. Generations of women continue to lead the fight for social justice, from societal equity to climate justice; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians - led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance) - successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980, as National Women's History Week; and

WHEREAS, The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year; and

WHEREAS, Seven years after President Carter's proclamation, Congress - at the urging of the National Women's History Project - designated March 1987 as Women's History Month, a recognition that has continued annually since; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area was the home to many women who have achieved significant firsts in our nation's history, including Kamala Harris, the first woman elected as Vice President; Dianne Feinstein, the first woman elected as California's U.S. Senator; and Dr. Jennifer Doudna, a Nobel Prize-winning biochemist known for pioneering CRISPR gene editing research, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Standing on the shoulders of the women who came before them, today's women and girls continue to carry forward the mission of ensuring our daughters have the same opportunities as our sons. Women are leading the fight for justice, opportunity, and equality, and continue to lead groundbreaking civil rights movements for social justice and freedom; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical political, economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force in education, medicine, government, law, business, military service, and every other field, and American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; additionally, women have been instrumental in the fields of science, the arts, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, The SMUHSD workforce is made up of 57.9% women. Our student body is made up of 48.7% women; and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD recognizes the importance of: educating our community about women's history as a way to promote equity; ensuring that all students have equal access to opportunities and are represented in the achievements we promote. Furthermore, SMUHSD understands its responsibility to share this history with our community, particularly with regard to honoring the significant and longstanding contributions women have made in this Nation, in California, and our local community; and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD acknowledges and is committed to the work that remains in order to achieve gender equity for our young women students. We remain committed to empowering this next generation of leaders by instilling confidence in their abilities and supporting their success; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District, that the District takes great pleasure in recognizing March 2026 as National Women's History Month and urges all citizens, staff, and students to join in celebrating the accomplishments and persistence of women everywhere.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on the 26th day of February, 2026.



Superintendent

Teri Chavez

President, Board of Trustees