



**RESOLUTION #23-31**  
**PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual, month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, which was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher, Rodney Wilson; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 14, 2011, the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act was passed and signed into law in California and mandates the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the social studies and history curricula in California public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 14, 2016, the California State Board of Education passed a new History Social Science Framework that includes LGBTQ+ American history content to be taught in K-12 classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, all students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of LGBTQ+ history events and people of all races have contributed to the history of equality for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, Sylvia Rivera and Martha P. Johnson, two trans women of color, were some of the significant individuals who stood up for LGBTQ+ Rights at the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ community members across Santa Cruz County have made significant contributions to our community including Senator John Laird who was the first openly gay elected official in Santa Cruz County, Mayor Jimmy Dutra in Watsonville, Mayor Donna Meyers in Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College Trustees Adam Spickler and Steve Trujillo, and many other public officials across the county; and

**WHEREAS**, local LGBTQ+ activists and allies for more than 45 years have persevered to transform the annual Pride marches from tense rallies needing police and parade monitor protection into one of Santa Cruz's most joyful and beloved community celebrations; and

**WHEREAS**, the local LGBTQ+ community and its allies rose up to meet the challenge of the AIDS epidemic, helped lead the state and nation in developing community-based strategies for reducing pain and suffering, and took major roles in statewide resistance to political attacks on people with AIDS, including teachers, all despite suffering great and unrecoverable losses of friends and loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ individuals continue to make noteworthy and important contributions to American history, culture and society; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Education supports the rights, freedoms and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, and asexual (LGBTQ+); and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Education affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Education recognizes the important contributions of local, State, and National LGBTQ+ people to the history of the United States, by promoting social justice, enhancing health and well-being, and building a sense of community for LGBTQ+ people; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board of Education celebrates the accomplishments of LGBTQ+ people in history, encourages all schools to celebrate October as LGBTQ+ History Month, and encourages teachers to teach lessons about LGBTQ+ history in their classrooms aligned with the State History Framework, not just in October but all year long.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 21st day of September, 2023, by the following vote:


**AYES:** Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:** Acosta

**ABSTAIN:**

  
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Bruce Van Allen, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

  
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Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary  
Cruz County Superintendent of Schools