

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 23-132

Proclaiming September 11-15, 2023, as Disability Voting Rights Week

WHEREAS, according to the 2021 American Community Survey, Yolo County is home to almost nearly 20,000 voting-age residents with some type of disability, and the CDC estimates that most Americans will either have a disability at some point in their lives or know someone who does; and

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental right for every citizen and is necessary for a functioning, participatory democracy; and

WHEREAS, challenges to voting are experienced in different ways by people with mobility disabilities, people with blindness, low vision, or other vision disabilities, people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, people with cognitive disabilities, people with speech, language, sensory, and learning disabilities, people with mental illness, and people with many other disabilities, including those both readily apparent and not apparent to others; and

WHEREAS, having a disability must never be a barrier to voting; and

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted in 2002 to ensure that all voters have equal access to registering to vote and voting privately and independently; and

WHEREAS, the disability community has a critical interest in policies and decisions made and enacted at local, state, and national levels that impact their lives directly; and

WHEREAS, making sure people with disabilities have access to voting is essential if these policies are to meet the real needs of people with disabilities in our communities; and voting is one way for the disability community to have a say in the people and policies that impact our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Elections Office has continually strived to improve voting accessibility, including by establishing the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee in 2021, adopting the Voter's Choice Act in 2022, and creating an Election Administration Plan that prioritizes outreach and education and an accessible voting experience for voters with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee is comprised of community members representing their own lived experience, members of local disability advocacy organizations and other local boards and organizations, and subject-matter experts who provide assistance and recommendations to the County to maximize voting accessibility and to increase voter participation among people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, members of the national disability rights community are organizing the sixth annual Disability Voting Rights Week for September 11–15, 2023, to protect the rights of people with disabilities to participate fully in our democracy and to highlight the ongoing work to support voters with disabilities throughout the voting process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors supports the growing involvement of the disability community in the political process; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the week of September 11-15, 2023, as Disability Voting Rights Week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of September, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Frerichs, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas.

Oscar E. Villegas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors