

CINDY CHAVEZ

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August 24, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San José
Honorable Councilmembers, City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Support for Proposition 16

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

On June 23, 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to Adopt the Resolution to support ACA 5. On June 25, 2020, ACA 5 passed in the State Senate and will be on the ballot in November as Proposition 16 to repeal Proposition 209 and reinstate affirmative action in public contracting, hiring, and public education.

Proposition 16 would permit the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors in government hiring, college admissions, and government contracting, and removes a barrier to collecting and communicating gender and racial data. As Assemblymember Shirley Weber stated, “after 25 years of quantitative and qualitative data, we see that race-neutral solutions cannot fix problems steeped in race”.

It is crucial for local governments to affirm support for Proposition 16 to make equitable opportunities to hire more women and people of color, expand access to higher education, and invest in businesses owned by women and people of color. Now, more than ever, we must support and pass ACA 5 in order to ensure that the most impacted communities receive equitable support, to take a strong stance against racism, sexism, and xenophobia, and to counter the current policies on the federal level that use race and gender to divide our communities.

For these reasons, we support Proposition 16 and encourage the City of San José to join the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors with its endorsement.

Sincerely,

Cindy Chavez
President
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Dave Cortese
Supervisor
District Three