

Resolution Calling for an Increase of Public Transportation in the Santa Clara County

Whereas according to the American Public Transport Association in 2018, cars made up 37.3% of United States Greenhouse gas emissions as opposed to 1% from buses, and the use of private passenger cars greatly contribute to climate change, whose burden will be greatest for the youngest generation through rising sea levels, pollution, and global warming, where when the global average temperature reaches two degrees celsius will lead to catastrophic damages to the earth;

Whereas a lack of public transportation disproportionately affects low-income communities in California which continues the cycle of poverty in this state through limited access to jobs and education, which leads to a lack of housing and an increase in homelessness and due to insufficient government funding and resources in these communities, climate change will also disproportionately affect these communities;

Whereas many students depend on public transportation to get to school and inadequate access to transportation leads to truancy, which disproportionately affects low-income and BIPOC students as they rely on this method of transportation the most, and truancy can lead to juvenile incarceration, contributing to the school to prison pipeline and the mass incarceration of minorities in this country;

Therefore it be resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls upon the county to expand the accessibility and availability of public transport to low-income communities through increasing bus stops and routes in these communities and to create campaigns within the county to inform students on how to use public transportation, which will enable low-income students to go to school, improve truancy rates and reduce the rate of the school to prison pipeline;

Be it further resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party pressures the county and Democratic party officials to allocate more funding towards investing in eco-friendly buses and bus systems as well as implement more health and safety measures during the time of COVID-19 within public transportation, and create advertisement campaigns that focus on dissolving the stigma surrounding public transit and provide comprehensive information regarding health, safety, and use of public transportation county-wide, therefore reducing our county's carbon footprint by promoting sustainable modes of transportation.

Submitted by the Santa Clara County High School Democrats of America

Adopted by Youth Delegates to the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee "Youth Takeover" meeting, August 6, 2020

Adoption affirmed by Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee, August 6, 2020