

A Resolution for a More Dignified and Safe Menstrual Health Access

WHEREAS Santa Clara County's current menstrual products in public spaces contain harsh chemicals and pollutants, which can lead to endangering people with periods. A 2024 study from the University of California, Berkeley, found 16 different metals, including lead, arsenic, and cadmium, in all 30 tampon samples tested across 14 major brands, highlighting concerns about potential exposure to harmful contaminants in menstrual products placed around the public. Increasing our budget for menstrual products would enable the county to provide safer alternatives, such as organic cotton products and reusable period underwear, ensuring healthier and more sustainable menstrual care for residents.

WHEREAS members of the general public, including those from low-income backgrounds and individuals experiencing homelessness, have access to safer period products that are free of microplastics or other toxic chemicals that could be deemed dangerous. These individuals are disproportionately disadvantaged for not having access because of the high financial costs, with many safe products averaging \$8 to \$18 per package. By increasing our budget, the County can better address the menstrual health needs of people with periods in the Bay Area while promoting equitable access to menstrual health care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports increasing the county budget for menstrual products in public spaces by 40% and investing in providing safer period products containing less heavy metals; more people with periods would have access to these products that may otherwise be unaffordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the County Office of Women's Policy, and all Democratic elected officials representing Santa Clara County to encourage adoption of these procurement standards county-wide; and

Submitted by Sanhita Chava and Medha Rustagi