

Resolution No.:
Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 6 TO AMEND ARTICLE 1,
SECTION 6 OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution currently states that "slavery is prohibited" with the exception that "involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime" may still be practiced; and

WHEREAS, the exception clause permits the continued exploitation of labor from incarcerated individuals, which disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black and Indigenous communities, and perpetuates systemic racial inequalities; and

WHEREAS, forced labor under the guise of punishment for crime is a vestige of slavery, a system that the United States Constitution's 13th Amendment sought to abolish, yet left this harmful exception intact, effectively allowing slavery by another name; and

WHEREAS, California is currently one of only 16 states that still retains this exception in its constitution, perpetuating a practice that should have been eradicated with the abolition of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 6 seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause, fully prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude under any circumstances, thereby reaffirming California's commitment to human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 6 aligns with the principles of justice and fairness, ensuring that no individual, regardless of their legal status, can be subjected to involuntary servitude as a means of punishment; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the importance of historical accountability and the responsibility to dismantle the legacies of systemic injustice embedded in our state and nation's legal framework;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support for Proposition 6, which amends Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime, effectively ending all vestiges of slavery in the state.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
Claudia G. Silva, County Counsel
BY: Randall Sjoblom, Senior Deputy County Counsel