



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cortese's Proposal to Review Title IX Regarding Sexual Assaults and Harassment Wins Unanimous Approval

A review of how the County's K-12 schools and colleges are complying with Title IX policies and procedures in responding to complaints of sexual assaults and harassment is moving forward after a unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors, making Santa Clara County the first in the nation to conduct such a review.

The vote in favor of Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal came after testimony from dozens of sexual assault survivors and their advocates who urged the Board to approve the review prompted by changes in the Title IX that survivors believe weaken survivors' protections and discourage them from filing complaints.

"The Trump administration gutted protections in Title IX and increased the likelihood that sexual assaults and harassment will occur, and watered down the responses that administrators at schools and universities should take," said Supervisor Cortese. "This review is needed now more than ever."

The [report](#) approved today provides an initial analysis of how the administration will approach the work, estimates of time preparation and costs. The administration recommends conducting the audit in seven phases and engaging outside consultant experts including attorneys. Funds for this project may be used from the Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention budget.

The audit will begin with publicly available information from campuses followed with a request for information for missing data, resulting in a final report with expert analyses including ease of access to information, prevention and education on campus safety, and gaps, if any.

A vendor will be selected with legal expertise and staff to dedicate to a project of this size. The administration estimates that the project would take 12-18 months to complete after the solicitation process is completed.

The administration will review public information with a follow-up request of schools and post-secondary institutions for any missing information. After a thorough review of campus websites where this information must be posted, a survey request would be sent to the school district, college, or university for which additional information is needed.

Click [here](#) to listen to the discussion on Tuesday, October 20. For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Cortese at 408-299-5030.

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