

## **OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for June 2025**

### **(25-0003) INCREASES ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

#### **Petition Circulation paid for by Committee for Golden Values for Ethnic Studies**

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#### **OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY (SAME AS ON PETITION)**

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purposes and points of the proposed measure:

#### **(25-0003) INCREASES ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

Under current law, undergraduate students at the California State University (CSU) must complete one three-unit ethnic studies course to graduate. This measure would change CSU's graduation requirements to require, beginning in the 2030-2031 academic year: (1) undergraduate students to complete two ethnic studies courses (one three-unit lower division course and one three-unit upper division course); and (2) graduate students to complete one three-unit ethnic studies course. Prohibits the Legislature from reducing the number of required courses for graduation or altering required course curriculum. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Increased state costs in the tens of millions of dollars annually during initial implementation of the measure, with the bulk of costs phasing out over time. (25-0003.)**

**To sign this petition, complete the fields on pages 2 and 3 with a black or blue pen.**

**Typed, emailed, and/or scanned info is NOT acceptable under California law.**

**All who sign on pages 2 and 3 must be registered to vote in the same county.**

**When finished, mail all pages to this measure's UPS mailbox, which is located at:**

**420 N McKinley St., Unit #111-307, Corona, CA, 92879**

**To make copies of this petition and/or to avoid invalidating signatures by mixing voters who are registered to vote in different counties, go to: [goldenvalues.org/sign](http://goldenvalues.org/sign).**

**Double-sided printing of this petition is OK.**

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(25-0003.)

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:** THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK. THE PROPONENTS OF THIS PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS PETITION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE MEASURE QUALIFIES FOR THE BALLOT.

This column for  
official use only.

<b>1.</b>	Print Your Name: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____
	<b>DO NOT SIGN UNLESS</b> you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid.	
	Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	City: _____ Zip: _____

**DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR**

**(to be completed after above signatures have been obtained)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am 18 years of age or older. My residence address is  
\_\_\_\_\_. I circulated this petition and  
(address, city, state, zip code)

witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature on this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. I certify that under penalty of perjury under laws of the State  
(month, day, year) (month, day, year)

of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that I showed each signer a valid and unfalsified "Official Top Funders" sheet. Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(month and day) (year) (place of signing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(complete signature indicating full name of circulator)

## INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS.

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Under current law, undergraduate students at the California State University (CSU) must complete one three-unit ethnic studies course to graduate. This measure would change CSU's graduation requirements to require, beginning in the 2030-2031 academic year: (1) undergraduate students to complete two ethnic studies courses (one three-unit lower division course and one three-unit upper division course); and (2) graduate students to complete one three-unit ethnic studies course. Prohibits the Legislature from reducing the number of required courses for graduation or altering required course curriculum. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Increased state costs in the tens of millions of dollars annually during initial implementation of the measure, with the bulk of costs phasing out over time.** (25-0003.)

To the Honorable Secretary of State of California  
We, the undersigned, registered, qualified voters of California, residents of \_\_\_\_\_ County, hereby propose amendments to the Education Code, relating to ethnic studies and petition the Secretary of State to submit the same to the voters of California for their adoption or rejection at the next succeeding general election or at any special statewide election held prior to that general election or as otherwise provided by law. The proposed statutory amendments read as follows:

This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 8, of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure amends and adds sections to the Education Code; therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in ~~strikeout~~ type and new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic* type to indicate that they are new.

### **SEC. 1. Name.**

This act shall be known as the "Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026."

### **SEC. 2. Findings and Purpose.**

The People of California find and declare that:

- a) Ethnic studies programs have come about due to students of color demanding them. On November 6, 1968, a coalition of student groups at San Francisco State University demanded that the university institute an ethnic studies program.
- b) Ethnic studies is an interdisciplinary and comparative examination of race, ethnicity, and the experiences of historically marginalized communities, with a primary focus on four core groups: Indigenous peoples (including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Indigenous peoples of U.S. territories), African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans.
- c) The field of ethnic studies also encompasses the histories, cultures, and contributions of additional communities, including but not limited to Pacific Islanders, Southwest Asian and North Africans (SWANA), Middle Eastern/North Africans (MENA), and other multiracial and multicultural groups.

- d) Studies have consistently found that both students of color and white students benefit academically and socially from taking ethnic studies courses.
- e) Ethnic studies courses play an important role in building an inclusive and multicultural democracy. In recognition of this, Assembly Bills 1460 and 101 enacted minimum ethnic studies education requirements in California's upper education systems and high schools.
- f) Existing law only requires that a single three-unit ethnic studies course is completed in the California State University. The California State University currently allows the taken course to either be lower division - courses designed for first and second-year students, or upper division - courses that often have entry prerequisites, and at times, greater academic difficulty.
- g) The purpose of the "Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026" ("the Act") is to ensure that upper education institutions in California continue to provide a competent ethnic studies education for its current and incoming students in our diversifying, multiracial society.

**SEC. 3. Section 89032 of the Education Code is amended to read:**

**89032.** (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that students at the California State University acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens.

- (b) Commencing with the 2021-22 academic year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses.
- (c) The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2021-22 academic year.
- (d) Commencing with students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement. ~~This~~ *Until the commencement of 2030-31 academic year*, this graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:
  - (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.
  - (2) The student has completed an ethnic studies course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.
- (e) *The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2030-31 academic year.*

- (f) *Commencing with students graduating in the 2030-31 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, at a minimum, one lower division ethnic studies course that is three units or higher and one upper division ethnic studies course that is three units or higher. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement.*
- (g) *For the purposes of this section, a "lower division course" means coursework typically intended for first-year and second-year undergraduate students, but is coursework that can also be taken by students of a different academic standing levels permitted under California State University system policies. The California State University is authorized to establish specific criteria and classification for lower division courses, including but not limited to course content, unit values, and the required level of academic preparation.*
- (h) *For the purposes of this section, an "upper division course" means coursework typically intended for third-year and fourth-year undergraduate students, but is coursework that can also be taken by students of a different academic standing levels if permitted under California State University system policies. The California State University is authorized to establish specific criteria and classifications for upper division courses, including but not limited to course content, unit values, and the required level of academic preparation.*
- (i) *Commencing with postbaccalaureate students graduating in the 2030-31 academic year, the California State University shall require, as a graduation requirement, the completion of, at a minimum, one ethnic studies course that is three units or higher. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a postbaccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement.*
- (j) *Upon the commencement of 2030-31 academic year, this graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a postbaccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:*
  - (1) *The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency, with 2 ethnic studies classes completed within their baccalaureate coursework.*
  - (2) *The student has completed 2 ethnic studies courses at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.*
- (k) *The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2030-31 academic year.*

#### **SEC. 4. Amendment.**

- a) Pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 10 of Article II of the California Constitution, this Act may be amended by a subsequent measure submitted to a vote of the people at a statewide election.
- b) This Act may also be amended by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature solely for the purpose of increasing the number of required ethnic studies courses or their frequency. However, the Legislature cannot, whether by majority vote or a higher threshold, alter, remove, or mandate

specific instructional materials, course objectives, themes, or selected readings within the curriculum. Additionally, no amendment from the Legislature may eliminate, suspend, reduce, or repeal the ethnic studies requirements of this Act in whole or in part, and funding allocations shall be maintained at levels necessary to meet the implementation requirements of this Act, ensuring that financial support remains consistent with legal obligations.

- c) No amendment from the Legislature, whether by majority vote or a higher threshold, may transfer regulatory, oversight, or curricular authority of this Act, its implementation, or its requirements to any state agency, commission, or other nonlegislative entity. If compliance with anti-discrimination laws or other legal mandates is required due to enforcement actions or court rulings, the Legislature and any other legal enforcement body still shall not directly dictate or manipulate curricular decisions, course materials, or instructional methods, and the California State University would be solely responsible for making legally necessary modifications while maintaining academic integrity and faculty governance.
- d) In general, including scenarios where legal intervention is necessary, per Sec. 4. Amendment, paragraph (c), control over curricular development and implementation as it relates to this Act, is actively, and shall remain, with the California State University system and its educational partners. This Act shall not be misconstrued as authorizing, endorsing, or facilitating the privatization of public education curricula, or access to education, nor shall it be misconstrued to limit the California State University's ability to establish any additional and necessary faculty committees, advisory groups, oversight, or commissions to assist them in legally complying with this Act and following through with its intent.

#### **SEC. 5. Severability.**

It is the intent of the People that the provisions of this Act are severable and that if any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.