

Gavilan Joint Community College

Resolution No. 2026-08

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Gavilan Joint Community College District Opposing the Construction or Operation of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center in Gilroy, the South County or Within District Boundaries

WHEREAS, the mission of the Gavilan Joint Community College District is: through equitable access and comprehensive support in a welcoming, inclusive environment, Gavilan College guides students of diverse backgrounds to achieve academically and pursue lifelong learning. We prepare students for transfer success, career advancement, and meaningful community participation; and

WHEREAS, Gavilan Joint Community College District serves a diverse student population, including immigrant, mixed-status and multilingual student community whose contributions strengthen the social, cultural, and economic fabric of San Benito and South Santa Clara Counties; and

WHEREAS, school campuses function best when students and staff feel safe accessing education, healthcare, counseling, transportation, nutrition services, and community resources without fear or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board recognizes that student academic success, attendance, social engagement, and emotional well-being are closely connected to whether students and staff feel safe, welcomed, and supported within their community and campus environments; and

WHEREAS, research and lived experience demonstrate that the threat or presence of immigration detention and enforcement activities can create significant trauma, fear, anxiety, chronic stress, absenteeism, disengagement from school, and barriers to educational success for children and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has heard concerns from students, educators, counselors, staff and community members regarding the potential educational and emotional impacts that immigration detention infrastructure may have on students served by the college; and

WHEREAS, the construction or operation of an ICE detention center in the immediate vicinity of Gilroy would undermine the sense of safety and belonging that is essential to student well-being, academic success, consistent school attendance, mental health, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board recognizes that many students and staff in the Gavilan Joint Community College District have family members, friends, neighbors, or caregivers who could be directly or indirectly impacted by immigration detention policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, while immigration enforcement policy is determined by federal and other governmental entities, the Governing Board may appropriately express concern regarding the potential impacts that local detention infrastructure may have on students, staff and their families, and the educational environment of the College and is uniquely positioned to provide input regarding those local educational impacts; and

WHEREAS, California law, including the California Values Act and other protections related to safe school environments, affirms the importance of limiting fear and disruption to students,

families and staff connected to immigration enforcement matters; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board recognizes its fiduciary obligation and responsibility, consistent with its educational mission, to advocate for policies and conditions that support the educational success, safety, and emotional well-being of all students in within its jurisdictional boundaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Gavilan Joint Community College formally opposes the construction, expansion, or operation of any Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center within Gilroy, the South County region, or anywhere within the District’s jurisdictional boundaries due to the anticipated negative impacts such a facility could have on student well-being, staff and family trust, campus climate, and educational access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Board urges local, county, state, and federal leaders to reject proposals that would expand immigration detention infrastructure in Gilroy, the South County region, or anywhere in the District’s jurisdictional area and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Board reaffirms its commitment to maintaining campuses that are welcoming, inclusive, safe and supportive environments for all students and staff, collaboration with community organizations, educators, students, families and public agencies to support all students and uphold educational equity, student wellness, and community belonging.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Gavilan Joint Community College District on this 9th day of June, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

**Alicia Cortez, Board President,
Gavilan Joint Community College District**

**Pedro Avila, Ed.D., President/Superintendent,
Gavilan Joint Community College District**

**Dr. Gabriel Gutierrez, Board Clerk,
Gavilan Joint Community College District**