

SENATE THIRD READING
SCR 152 (Reyes)
As Introduced March 25, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Proclaims April 10, 2026, as Dolores Huerta Day in California; and, encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering the life of Dolores Huerta, recognizing her accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions she made to California.

Major Provisions

- 1) Activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta has worked her entire life to improve social and economic conditions for farmworkers, is a leader in the fight against discrimination, and is a defender of civil rights, equal rights, and dignity for all.
- 2) Dolores Huerta spent most of her childhood and early adult life in the City of Stockton with her two brothers and their mother, following her parents' divorce.
- 3) While Dolores Huerta was a student at Stockton High School, she was active in numerous school clubs and the Girl Scouts. Upon graduating, she earned a provisional teaching credential. She taught until she could no longer bear to see her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet, and thus began her lifelong journey of working to correct economic injustice.
- 4) Dolores Huerta found her calling as an organizer while serving in the leadership of the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO), and founded the Agricultural Workers Association. She set up voter registration drives and pressed local governments for barrio improvements.
- 5) In 1962, Dolores Huerta lobbied to have the CSO expand its efforts to help farmworkers, but the organization was only focused on urban issues. Dolores Huerta and others resigned from the CSO and helped found the National Farm Workers Association. Dolores Huerta's organizing skills were essential to the growth of the association.
- 6) Dolores Huerta overcame the many challenges she faced as a woman. She remained the most talented negotiator, securing services for farmworkers in California in 1963 in the form of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and disability insurance, an unparalleled feat of the times.
- 7) The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee was an integral part of the farmworkers original organizing, and was formed by Filipino workers. The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee was led by Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco, and Andy Imutan, all of whom were instrumental to the farm labor movement.
- 8) In 1965, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and the National Farm Workers Association combined to become the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, later known as the United Farm Workers (UFW). That year, the union took on the Coachella Valley grape growers.

- 9) During the 1980s, Dolores Huerta served as vice president of the UFW and cofounded the UFW's radio station. She continued to speak for a variety of causes, advocating for a comprehensive immigration policy and better health conditions for farmworkers.
- 10) The most widely known phrase, "Sí se puede," was a phrase first used by Dolores Huerta in the farmworker movement.
- 11) At 95 years of age, Dolores Huerta continues to work tirelessly, developing leaders and advocating for the working poor, women, and children. As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she travels across the country advocating in campaigns and legislation that support equality and defend civil rights. She continues to be a voice for social justice and public policy.
- 12) The accomplishments and contributions of Dolores Huerta should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of the United States. Dolores Huerta deserves proper recognition for her numerous sacrifices in the name of justice and the amelioration of severely inadequate working conditions.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"Dolores Huerta has dedicated her life to advancing justice, dignity, and opportunity for working people. Her legacy is not only defined by her leadership, but by the collective power of the communities she helped organize, farmworkers, families, and advocates who came together to demand fair treatment and lasting change."

"In the face of injustice, particularly her perseverance after experiencing violence while peacefully protesting, Dolores Huerta stands as a powerful example of resilience and commitment to a greater cause. SCR 152 honors her extraordinary contributions, but it also calls on all of us to reflect on our own responsibility to engage, to advocate, and to work toward stronger, more equitable communities."

"Since 2018, other states have recognized Dolores Huerta Day following California's lead, including Washington State, and several cities have issued local proclamations. This resolution provides an opportunity for the Legislature to honor her contributions and ensure that her story and impact are recognized across our state."

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 27-0-13**

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Stern, Strickland, Valladares

ASM RULES: 8-0-2

YES: Pacheco, Lackey, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ahrens, Sanchez

UPDATED

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