

SACRAMENTO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Resolution Approving Galt Joint Union High School District's Proposal Under Education Code Section 5019 to Change to "By-Trustee Area" Elections, Adopt Trustee Areas Map, and Establish Sequence of Elections

Resolution No. CC-22-02

WHEREAS, the governing board of the Galt Joint Union High School District (GJUHSD) is composed of five members, who are elected under an "at-large" election system, where each trustee is elected by the registered voters of the entire school district;

WHEREAS, Education Code section 5019 authorizes a school district governing board, by resolution, to change its method of electing governing board members;

WHEREAS, Education Code section 5030 authorizes alternative methods of electing school district governing board members, including at-large, hybrid, and by-trustee area elections;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2022, GJUHSD submitted a proposal to the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) under Education Code section 5019 to, effective for the November 2022 and 2024 election cycles, establish trustee areas, change its election method so one board member residing within each trustee area will be elected by the registered voters residing in that trustee area ("by-trustee area" elections), and establish the sequence of elections (proposal).

WHEREAS, GJUHSD's proposal and public website and other publicly available information indicate the following history, public hearings outreach, and other events related to GJUHSD's proposed change of election method:

- April 14, 2022 – GJUHSD received a "Notice of Violation" of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) from Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, a Texas non-profit corporation registered to conduct operations in California.
- June 11, 2020 – GJUHSD entered into a conditional settlement agreement with Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in which GJUHSD denied that its at-large election system violated the CVRA, but agreed to change to by-trustee area elections to avoid litigation and ensure compliance with the CVRA. The settlement agreement recognized GJUHSD's desire to draw trustee area boundaries based on the 2020 federal decennial census data.
- June 11, 2020 – GJUHSD adopted Resolution No. 1920-14 initiating the process to transition to a by-trustee area election system to be implemented with the November 2022 and 2024 governing board election cycles.
- November 4, 2021 – GJUHSD presented a timeline for transition to by-trustee area elections.

- December 16, 2021 and January 13, 2022 – GJUHSd held public hearings to consider community input and comment regarding the potential composition of trustee areas prior to draft maps being drawn.
- GJUHSd launched a dedicated webpage and a dedicated email address specific to the transition to by-trustee area elections, both of which were communicated through various platforms.
- January 18, 2022 and February 10, 2022 – GJUHSd published draft trustee area Map Scenarios 1-4 for public review and input and posted on its public website.
- GJUHSd communicated that its draft map scenarios were available for viewing through multiple platforms, including but not limited to: announcements on the main GJUHSd webpage and a dedicated webpage for the transition to by-trustee area elections, email messages to families, flyers and advertisements at its schools, meeting with stakeholders, including City and Schools Together, and placing advertisements in The Galt Herald, Sacramento Bee, and Lodi News Sentinel.
- January 25, 2022 and February 10, 2022 – GJUHSd held public hearings to gather public input on the proposed trustee-area map scenarios and sequence of elections.
- February 10, 2022 – GJUHSd considered Map Scenarios 1-4 and election sequencing schedules and expressed its preference for Map Scenario 4 for final consideration on March 10, 2022.
- March 10, 2022 – GJUHSd held public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 2122-16 proposing to transition to “by-trustee area” elections using the GJUHSd trustee area boundaries map and sequence of elections identified as Map Scenario 4.

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953 allows local legislative bodies to satisfy public transparency requirements by holding meetings via teleconference, subject to certain requirements which have been satisfied here.

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2022, as required by Education Code section 5019, and after having complied with all notice requirements, the County Committee conducted a public hearing in the district on GJUHSd’s proposal to change to by-trustee area elections, which was also available and accessible within GJUHSd and throughout the community via Zoom video and/or audio teleconference;

WHEREAS, notice of the County Committee’s public hearing location, including video and/or audio hearing access, was posted on the GJUHSd and Sacramento County Office of Education websites.

WHEREAS, GJUHSd has submitted information in support of its proposal to change its election method to “by-trustee area” elections, the record reflects rational reasons for GJUHSd’s proposal, and GJUHSd’s proposal appears to be consistent with the law.

WHEREAS, GJUHSD 's proposal and supporting materials demonstrate that GJUHSD initiated its proposed change to by-trustee area elections in furtherance of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA), and the County Committee declares that GJUHSD's change in election method is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the CVRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that:

1. The recitals set forth above are correct and true.
2. The Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization hereby approves GJUHSD's proposal to:
 - a. Adopt by-trustee area elections, implementing GJUHSD's trustee area boundaries map identified as Map Scenario 4.
 - b. Assign the sequence of elections for GJUHSD's five trustee areas as follows:
 - i. Trustee Areas 1, 2, and 4 scheduled for election in 2022; and
 - ii. Trustee Areas 3 and 5 scheduled for election in 2024.
3. GJUHSD shall submit the change in method of electing governing board members, trustee areas boundaries map, sequence of elections, and any other required information to the appropriate county elections officials, and to all other necessary parties by all required deadlines.
4. Pursuant to Education Code section 5020(a)(2), GJUHSD's change to by-trustee area elections need not be submitted to GJUHSD voters for approval.
5. The Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization hereby authorizes the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools or designee to take any other actions needed to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization this 11th day of June 2022, following a legally authorized public hearing, by the following vote:

AYES	_____	_____
NOES	_____	_____
ABSENT	_____	_____
ABSTAIN	_____	_____

Karina Talamantes, Board President

David W. Gordon, Board Secretary