

SACRAMENTO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Resolution Approving Natomas Unified 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-22-01

WHEREAS, the governing board of the Natomas Unified School District (NUSD) 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 December 8, 2021, NUSD 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, 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).

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

- January 20, 2021 – NUSD adopted Resolution No. 21-03 of intent to initiate transition to a by-trustee area election system to be implemented with the November 2022 and 2024 governing board election cycles. At that time, NUSD expressed its intention to develop its trustee area boundaries based on the most updated federal decennial census data following its release in 2021.
- July 14, 2021 – NUSD launched a survey to the Natomas community to gather initial input on the proposed transition.
- July 21, 2021 – NUSD presented a timeline for transition to by-trustee-area elections.
- July 26, 2021 – NUSD launched a second community survey to gather input about the possibility of NUSD seeking a waiver of the election requirement for implementing the by-trustee-area elections from the State Board of Education.
- August 4, 2021 and September 1, 2021 (continued to September 14, 2021) – NUSD held public hearings to consider community input and comment regarding the potential composition of trustee areas prior to draft maps being drawn.

- August 9, 2021 – NUSD launched a dedicated webpage and a dedicated email address specific to the transition to by-trustee area elections, both of which were widely communicated through various platforms.
- August 5, 2021 to August 31, 2021 – NUSD met with stakeholders, including the California School Employees Association, Natomas Teachers Association, District English Learner Advisory Committee ("DELAC"), Community Advisory Council ("CAC"), Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council, Natomas Chamber of Commerce, and the Natomas Schools Foundation.
- September 23, 2021 – NUSD launched a third community survey to gather additional input prior to the map hearings.
- October 13, 2021 – NUSD presented information on stakeholder engagement and provided an update on census data at a regular Board meeting.
- Week of October 18, 2021 – NUSD published population density maps.
- October 20, 2021 – NUSD published five draft trustee-area map scenarios (scenarios A-E) for public review and input.
- October 27, 2021 – NUSD held public hearing to gather public input on the proposed trustee-area map scenarios and sequence of elections.
- November 1, 2021 – NUSD published sixth draft trustee-area map scenario (scenario F) for public review and input.
- November 4, 2021 – NUSD launched a fourth community survey to gather input on six draft map scenarios (maps A–F), available in English, Spanish, and Punjabi.
- NUSD communicated that its draft map scenarios were available for viewing through multiple platforms, including: announcements on the main NUSD webpage and a dedicated webpage for the transition to by-trustee area elections, direct emails and phone calls home to families, community newsletters, and making the content available in multiple languages.
- November 8, 2021 – NUSD held public hearing during a special board meeting focused on the by-trustee-area transition, reviewed the six draft map scenarios (maps A-F), and directed staff to consider Map Scenarios C, E, and F for final consideration at NUSD's regular meeting on November 17, 2021.
- November 17, 2021 – NUSD held public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 21-44 proposing to transition to “by-trustee area” elections using the NUSD trustee area boundaries map and sequence of elections identified as Map Scenario F.

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

WHEREAS, notice of the County Committee's video and/or audio teleconference hearing was posted on the NUSD and Sacramento County Office of Education websites.

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

WHEREAS, NUSD's proposal and supporting materials demonstrate that NUSD 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 NUSD'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 NUSD's proposal to:
 - a. Adopt by-trustee area elections, implementing NUSD's trustee area boundaries map identified as Map Scenario F.
 - b. Assign the sequence of elections for NUSD's five trustee areas as follows:
 - i. Trustee Areas 1 and 4 scheduled for election in 2022; and
 - ii. Trustee Areas 2, 3, and 5 scheduled for election in 2024.
3. NUSD 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), NUSD's change to by-trustee-area elections need not be submitted to NUSD 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 January 2022, following a legally authorized public hearing, by the following vote:

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

Karina Talamantes, Board President

David W. Gordon, Board Secretary