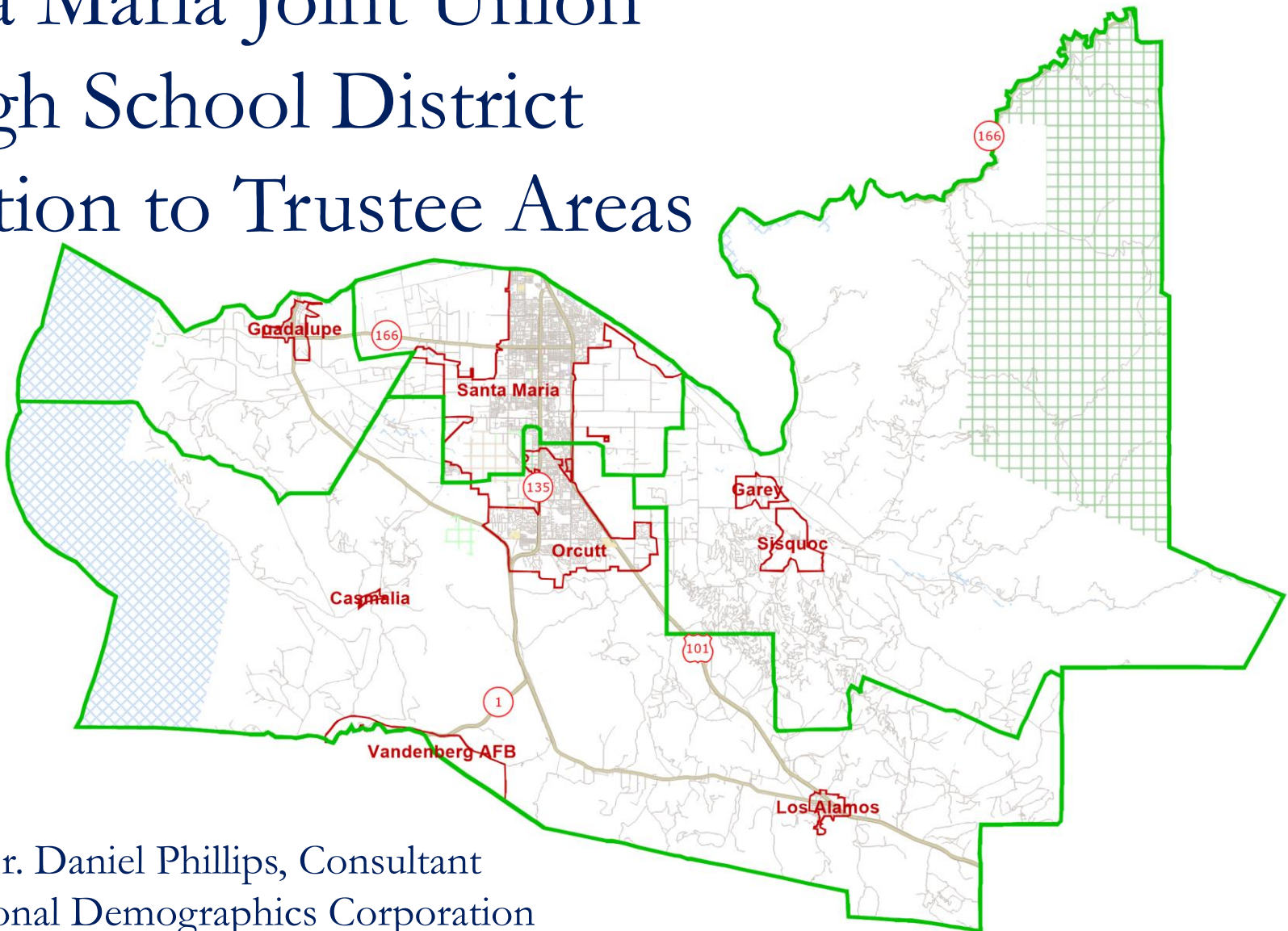


Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Transition to Trustee Areas



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Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From Trustee Area”
3. “By-Trustee Area”

**The California Voting Rights Act
was written to specifically encourage
by-trustee area elections.**

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court Gingles tests:
 - ~~■ Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 - Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~■ Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

CVRA Impact

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - ▣ At least 240 school districts
 - ▣ 34 Community College Districts
 - ▣ 154 cities
 - ▣ 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - ▣ 35 water and other special districts.
- Cases So Far:
 - ▣ Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
 - ▣ Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases).
 - ▣ Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$7 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested \$22 million in legal fees after the original trial.
- Key settlements:
 - ▣ Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - ▣ Modesto: \$3 million
 - ▣ Highland: \$1.3 million
 - ▣ Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - ▣ Whittier: \$1 million
 - ▣ Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - ▣ Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - ▣ Camarillo: \$233,000
 - ▣ Compton Unified: \$200,000
 - ▣ Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - ▣ Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - ▣ Merced City: \$42,000
- An estimated \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

Process of Transitioning to Trustee Areas

Step	Description
Initial Pre-Draft Hearings: September 14 & October 12	Held prior to release of draft maps. Educate on the process and solicit input on which criteria to use and what are the communities of interest in the district.
Release draft maps: November 23	Draft maps posted to district website
Two hearings on draft maps: November 30 & December 14	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map adoption: January 11	Map adopted via ordinance/resolution. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Rules and Goals for Drawing Trustee Areas

Federal Laws

- Equal Population
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering

Traditional Principles

- Communities of interest
- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Following visible (natural and man-made) boundaries
- Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- Planned future growth



Demographic Summary

Data include recently released 2020 Census total population figures (not yet official) and official 2020 demographic estimates from the American Community Survey.

According to the 2020 Census, each of the 5 trustee areas must contain about 31,200 people.

<i>Santa Maria JUHSD</i>			
Category	Field	Count	Pct
	2020 Census Pop.	156,236	
Total Pop	Hisp	105,671	68%
	NH White	37,350	24%
	NH Black	1,876	1%
	Asian-American	7,513	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	76,679	
	Hisp	35,752	47%
	NH White	33,491	44%
	NH Black	1,589	2%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	4,866	6%

[Interactive Review Map](#)

Public Hearing & Discussion

- Which traditional principles would you like us to consider when drawing your district's trustee areas, in addition to the federal requirements?
- Which of the traditional principles would you like us to prioritize when drawing the trustee areas?
- Any questions about the [Interactive Review Map](#)?