

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
INTENT TO INITIATE TRANSITION
FROM AT-LARGE TO BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2017-2018

WHEREAS, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (“District”) is governed by a five member Board of Trustees (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, members of the Board are elected “at large,” meaning that each member of the Board is elected by the registered voters of the entire District (Ed. Code, § 5030(a)); and

WHEREAS, the at-large election system has worked well for the District for many years and the District has received no demands that its method of election be changed; and

WHEREAS, it is the considered view of the Board that beginning with the 2022 board elections and with the benefit of the 2020 census data, the public interest may also be well-served by an election of its board members through “by-trustee areas” elections, i.e., elections in which “one or more members residing in each trustee area [is] elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area” (Ed. Code, § 5030(b)); and

WHEREAS, “at-large” electoral systems like the one currently used by the District, have been subjected to challenges throughout the State under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), Elections Code sections 14025-14032; and

WHEREAS, the District does not wish to encounter costly litigation; and

WHEREAS, data from the federal 2020 Census will permit trustee areas to be drawn and implemented using the most up-to-date demographic data available; and

WHEREAS, although Education Code section 5020 requires that a County Committee’s resolution approving a change in the method of electing board members be submitted to the electorate for its approval at the District’s next regular election, the Board of Education intends to seek a waiver of the voter approval requirement as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, Education Code sections 33050-33053 authorize the State Board of Education to waive this voter approval requirement, which could reduce the costs associated with this proposed change in the manner of electing board members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

A. The Board intends to take all needed and appropriate steps, including through the engagement and participation of District residents, to move from an at-large system of electing members of the Board to a by-trustee area system beginning in 2022, following the 2020 Decennial Census.

B. The Board hereby determines that the trustee area boundary lines shall be developed to provide for elections by-trustee areas for its elections in 2022.

C. Before submitting a specific proposal for a trustee area plan using the 2020 census data, public hearings shall be scheduled to obtain public input on such proposals.

D. The Board intends to apply to the Santa Barbara County Committee for establishment of trustee areas pursuant to Education Code section 5019(a) in a timely manner to have the 2022 elections for the Board conducted within the new trustee areas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Maria Joint Unified High School District Board of Education, County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 10th day of April, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Clerk/President/Secretary of the Board of Education
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District