



Elections by Trustee Area

Board of Education

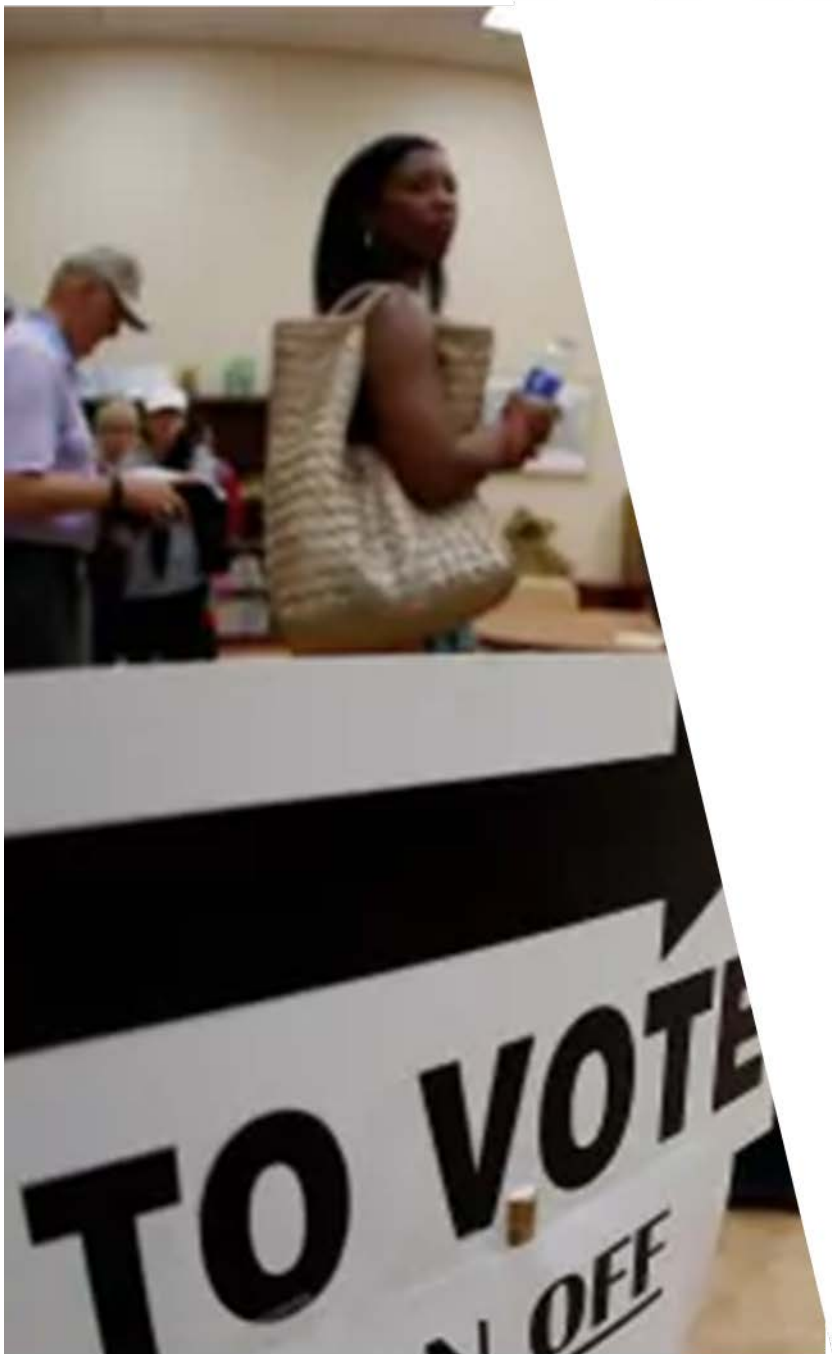
Wednesday, February 28, 2018



California Voting Rights Act

- In 2002, Governor Gray Davis signed the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 into law.
- Expands on rights granted under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- A violation of the CVRA is established if it is shown that racially polarized voting occurs in elections for members of the governing body. Racially polarized voting is a complex statistical analysis examining a racial minority groups ability to influence elections.
- Proof of intent on the part of the voters or elected officials to discriminate against a protected class is not required.





California Voting Rights Act of 2001

An at-large method of election may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class...

--California Elections Code §14027

At-Large vs. Trustee-Area Elections

- **At-large elections:** Each trustee is elected by all voters within the District.
- **Trustee-area elections:** Each trustee must reside within the designated trustee area boundary, and is elected only by the voters in that trustee area. Also known as “district-based” elections.



At-Large vs. Trustee-Area Elections

- In 2008, group of citizens petitioned to move WCCUSD to trustee-area elections. Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization turned down the petition.
- On January 22, 2018, the District received correspondence asserting that the District's current at-large elections violate the CVRA.
- The CVRA provides that the adoption of trustee-area elections is an absolute defense to a CVRA lawsuit.
- When a CVRA claim is raised, the vast majority of local public agencies respond by adopting trustee-area elections.



Overview of the Transition Process

- Consider resolution declaring intent to transition to trustee area elections
- Public hearings and community discussions to develop and potentially adopt trustee-area boundaries.
- Hearing with Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization
- Consider waiver of election requirement for change to trustee-area elections.



Tentative Timeline

- January 22, 2018: District received Demand Letter
- February 28, 2018: First reading of Resolution Declaring Intent to Transition to Trustee Area Elections
- March 7, 2018: Second reading of Resolution.
- Between March 8, 2018 and May 31, 2018: The District will follow requirements of the Election Code and Education Code, including holding a minimum of five public hearings, to develop and potentially adopt trustee-area boundaries.





Tentative Timeline

- **June 2018:** The District will ask the Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization to hold a hearing and take action in or around June or July, to approve or deny the District Board's proposed transition to trustee area elections and proposed trustee area boundaries.
- **July 11 - 12, 2018:** State Board of Education hearing on waiver of election requirement (if pursued by the District).
- **November 2020:** Initial implementation of trustee area elections.

QUESTIONS

