

**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE
PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

)	
A Resolution of the Board of)	
Trustees of the Paso Robles Joint)	
Unified School District To)	Resolution No. 19 - 15
Transition The Method of)	
Election of the Paso Robles Joint)	
Unified School District Board)	
Members)	
_____)	

WHEREAS, members of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (“District”) are currently elected at-large;

WHEREAS, the Board has no evidence that this current method of election for District trustees violates the California Voting Rights Act (“CVRA”), but nevertheless wants to ensure compliance with the CVRA;

WHEREAS, the Board currently enjoys diverse representation including gender diversity, religious diversity, and national origin, and is not aware of any racially-polarized voting patterns in the District that are interfering with the opportunity of minority groups to elect members to Board;

WHEREAS, the Board is nonetheless aware that the transition to “trustee area” elections in some communities has enhanced the ability for a greater number of candidates to run for seats on the school board by reducing the costs a candidate may incur in mounting a campaign, because it is less costly to run in a trustee area than across the District as a whole;

WHEREAS, the District’s Board members are elected in even-numbered years to serve staggered terms such that the next election for a majority of the Board’s seven members is scheduled for 2020, with the remaining board members scheduled for election in 2022;

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to transition the method of election of its governing board members from “at large” elections in which board members reside anywhere in the entire District and are elected by registered voters of the entire District to trustee area elections in which Board members reside in a designated “election district” and are only elected by registered voters within that same designated election district;

WHEREAS, to prepare for the creation of election district boundary lines, the Board would like to commission demographer to create election district maps and solicit public input regarding the configuration of the election district boundary lines that would be lawful and desirable;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Sections 5019 and 5030 authorize the San Luis Obispo County Committee on School District Reorganization and the Monterey County Committee on School District Reorganization (jointly “County Committee”) to change the method of election in a school district under its jurisdiction, upon application of that district;

WHEREAS, if the County Committee approves the request to change the method of electing board members, Education Code Section 5020 requires the County Committee’s resolution of approval to be submitted to the electorate for its approval;

WHEREAS, an election to approve the change in voting methods will result in a cost to the District, but Education Code Sections 33050-33053 authorize the State Board of Education to waive the voter approval requirement that could reduce the costs associated with this proposed change in the manner of electing board members;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that seeking a waiver of the Education Code requirement to submit the matter to the District’s electorate is in the best interest of the District and its voters;

WHEREAS, the Board, cognizant of its reduced operating revenues and need for fiscal conservancy, desires to implement any change to its manner of electing board members in the most cost effective and efficient manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Paso Robles

Joint Unified School District hereby resolves as follows:

1. By this resolution, the Board commits itself to adopt a change in the method of electing members of the District's Board of Trustees from at-large elections to trustee area so that the change can be implemented in future election cycles;
2. The District Superintendent and his designee are hereby authorized and directed to retain counsel to commission a demographic study in accordance with the intent of this resolution and to take steps to effectuate the intent of this resolution, and send a copy of this Resolution to the County Committee at the appropriate time and to work with the County Committee to conduct all legally required hearings and other acts necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution;
3. The Board hereby appoints Lozano Smith as its designated counsel to work with the District and the County Committee to provide legal guidance on the CVRA and implementation of any voting changes that result from this study, including guidance, if appropriate, to develop election districts boundary lines for seven single-member election districts;
4. The Board hereby authorizes creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee on Election Boundaries ("Citizens Committee") at the appropriate time following the demographic study to advise the Board about single-member election districts from which board members shall be elected;
5. The District Superintendent and his designee are authorized and directed to create and appoint a Citizens Committee following input about its composition from members of the Board;
6. The purpose of the Citizens Committee shall be to work with the Board, the District administration, the District's demographic consultant and others to assist the District to develop seven single-member election districts and to implement any changes which may become necessary in the manner of electing school board members;
7. The District Superintendent and his designee are hereby authorized and directed

to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education of the election requirement imposed by the Education Code;

8. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the District Superintendent or his designee to communicate the proposed election changes to the County Committee at the appropriate time to help ensure coordination and implementation of the proposed changes;

9. The District Superintendent and his designee are hereby authorized and directed to take any other actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

This Resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District on February 26, 2019.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

Joel Peterson
President, Board of Trustees
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

I, _____, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Board of Trustees at its meetings held on February 26, 2019.

Stephanie Ulibarri
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District