

SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION NO. 1819-24

**INTENT TO TRANSITION GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS
FROM AT-LARGE TO BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, San Rafael City Schools ("District") is governed by a five member Board of Education ("Board");

WHEREAS, members of the Board are elected "at large," in which each member of the Board is elected by the registered voters of the entire District;

WHEREAS, the District is committed to structures that most effectively involve all community members in the democratic process of elections;

WHEREAS, the California Voting Rights Act (Elec. Code, §§ 14025 et seq.) ("CVRA") prohibits the use of "at large" elections where their use impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice, or its ability to influence the outcome of elections;

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2019, the District received a letter from attorney Kevin Shenkman on behalf of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, alleging that the District's current at-large election system violates the CVRA as it "dilutes the ability of Latinos ... to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of the District's elections;"

WHEREAS, while several agencies throughout the State have attempted to challenge similar legal efforts to change their elections, none have been successful and such efforts have cost those agencies thousands to millions of dollars in attorney's fees;

WHEREAS, prior to any decision to establish trustee areas, Elections Code section 10010 requires a series of public hearings;

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to make the transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections in a deliberate and thoughtful manner which provides sufficient time for the Board and community to develop the trustee area boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the San Rafael City Schools that:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. This Resolution indicates the Board's intention to transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subd. (e)(3)(A).
3. In order to facilitate this transition and determine the trustee area boundaries the Board will take the following steps:
 - Engage the community as to the trustee area boundaries.
 - Engage District stakeholders as to the trustee area boundaries.
 - Seek proposals from and retain an experienced demographer to assist the District with the process.

- Ask the demographer to provide information about the boundary drawing process to the Board and public at a Board meeting.
- Hold at least two public hearings at Board meetings prior to the drafting of any draft trustee area boundary maps.
- Post all draft trustee area boundary maps on the District's website as they become available.
- Allow for comments on the maps to be submitted through the District's website.
- Hold at least three public hearings at Board meetings on the draft trustee area boundary maps prior to adoption of any map.

These steps may be augmented or adjusted by the Board as necessary.

4. The Board intends to complete these steps to allow for implementation of the new election system prior to the 2020 election for Board members.

5. District staff is authorized to work the District's legal counsel and execute any documents necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the San Rafael City Schools Board of Education and at a meeting held on March 25, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

President, Board of Education