



SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Establishment of By-Trustee Area Voting

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Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From Trustee Area” or “Residence” 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 established by just the presence of racially polarized voting and dilution of the protected class’s voting strength.

CVRA Impact

- **Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:**
 - At least 275 school districts
 - 36 Community College Districts
 - 191 cities
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 53 water and other special districts.
- **Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica fought “on the merits.” All lost.**
 - Santa Monica: CA Supreme Court referred case back to Court of Appeals
 - Palmdale spent about \$1.8 million, Santa Clara about \$800,000, and Santa Monica between \$5 and \$8 million, just on their defense.
 - Santa Monica plaintiffs requested \$22 million
 - No jurisdiction has won a case.
- **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.**

Districting Process

Step	Description
Hearing 1 October 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Education and to solicit input on the composition of Trustee Areas
Hearing 2 November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held prior to release of draft maps • Education and to solicit input on the composition of Trustee Areas
<i>Draft Maps Posted</i> <i>November 6</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be posted on the project website seven (7) days in advance of Hearings 3-5 • Public maps must be submitted at least 10 (ten) days in advance
Hearing 3 November 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Board consideration of draft maps
Hearing 4 November 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board consideration of draft maps
Hearing 5/Map Adoption December 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearing followed by map adoption
County Committee Hearing TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kern County Committee on School District Organization

Districting Rules and Goals

Federal Laws

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

Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Communities of interest
- Compact
- Contiguous
- Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- Planned future growth



Demographic Summary

Each of the 5 Trustee Areas must contain about 7,071 people.

<i>Sierra Sands Unified</i>						
Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total	
2020 Census	Total Population	35,357	Age	age0-19	27%	
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	21%		age20-60	51%	
	NH White	62%		age60plus	22%	
	NH Black	5%	Immigration	immigrants	7%	
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	8%		naturalized	64%	
	NH Native Amer.	3%	Language spoken at home	english	85%	
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	25,667		spanish	11%	
	Hisp	14%		asian-lang	2%	
	NH White	74%		other lang	2%	
	NH Black	4%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	4%	
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	6%		Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	59%
	Native Amer.	2%			bachelor	20%
Voter Registration (Nov 2022)	Total	20,877	graduatedegree		11%	
	Latino est.	14%	Child in Household	child-under18	29%	
	Spanish-Surnamed	13%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	61%	
	Asian-Surnamed	2%		Household Income	income 0-25k	18%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%	income 25-50k		16%	
	NH White est.	79%	income 50-75k		18%	
	NH Black	3%	income 75-200k		40%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2022)	Total	11,432	income 200k-plus		9%	
	Latino est.	9%	Housing Stats	single family	84%	
	Spanish-Surnamed	8%		multi-family	16%	
	Asian-Surnamed	2%		rented	37%	
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		owned	63%	
	NH White est.	84%	Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.		
	NH Black	3%				
Total	16,622					
Latino est.	10%					
Spanish-Surnamed	10%					
Asian-Surnamed	2%					
Filipino-Surnamed	1%					
NH White est.	81%					
NH Black est.	3%					

Defining Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest

1st Question: What is your neighborhood or community?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- ❑ Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- ❑ Areas around parks or schools
- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Other neighborhood landmarks

2nd Question: Does the area benefit from being united in a single zone?

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



Public Hearing & Discussion

- ❑ What is your neighborhood or community of interest and what are its boundaries?
- ❑ Would you prefer your neighborhood or community of interest be in one Trustee Area or that it have multiple representatives on the Board?