

Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections

The Tracy Unified School District like many other school districts across the state, is making a change in how voters elect the Board of Trustees. Beginning in 2024, voters in each Trustee Area will elect one Trustee from their Area. This will replace the current system of at-large elections in which all voters residing in the district elect all members of the Board.

Public Hearings

We value and promote the participation of the community in the districting process. We encourage interested residents to attend the public hearings and provide feedback on the proposed Trustee Area boundaries.

Meeting Calendar

February 28 – Pre-Map Hearing 1

March 28 – Pre-Map Hearing 2

April 25 – Map Hearing 1

May 9 – Map Hearing 2

June 13 – Map Hearing 3/Approval

How to Participate in Public Hearings

To speak at a public hearing, submit a yellow Speaker's Card to the Board secretary. The Board president will call each speaker to the podium. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

Draft Maps

Proposed Trustee Area maps are posted below. Each PDF map includes a second page detailing the demographics of each proposed Trustee Area.

Draft maps can also be viewed on the [interactive map page](#), where you can zoom in and out and search by street address.

[VIEW PURPLE MAP](#)

[VIEW YELLOW MAP](#)

[VIEW GREEN MAP](#)

[VIEW ORANGE MAP](#)

FAQs

What is the CVRA?

The [California Voting Rights Act](#), signed into law in 2002, prohibits the use of any election system “that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election.” Jurisdictions can be sued if they elect their governing

body using an at-large election system. If the court finds against a jurisdiction, the jurisdiction must change its election system and pay the plaintiff's attorneys, experts, and other expenses.

California law requires potential plaintiffs to notify the jurisdiction if plaintiffs believe that the jurisdiction is in violation of CVRA and prevents the filing of a lawsuit for a 45-day 'safe harbor' period. During those 45 days the jurisdiction must begin the process of moving to by-district elections or risk a lawsuit. If a jurisdiction begins the process of moving to by-district elections, it has another 90 day "safe harbor" to complete that process.

How is the CVRA different from the federal Voting Rights Act?

While the CVRA is modeled after the federal Voting Rights Act, a protected class of citizens does not have to be geographically compact or concentrated to allege a violation of the CVRA. Also, proof of intent to discriminate against a protected class is not required. Due to the lower threshold of proof, no public agency has prevailed in a lawsuit to date. For this reason, and the fact that public agencies are liable for attorney fees if they lose in court, most public agencies have voluntarily implemented district-based elections.

What are district-based elections?

Under a district-based election system, the District is divided into equally populated Trustee Areas. A candidate must reside within a Trustee Area and is elected only by voters residing within that same Area.

How are the boundaries of Trustee Areas determined?

The process begins with two public hearings during Board meetings. During the public hearings, the public may provide input to the Board on the composition of proposed Trustee Areas.

Following the second public hearing, the demographer will prepare at least two sets of draft Trustee Area maps and an election plan identifying which division elections will be held in 2024 and 2026. A third and fourth public hearing will be conducted to obtain public input regarding the draft maps and proposed sequence of elections. Following the fourth public hearing, the Board will vote to adopt a Trustee Area map and sequence of elections.

Contact

Please send any questions, comments, and map suggestions to sasmith@tusd.net; or contact the District by phone at (209) 830-3201.