LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Los Al School Board Posts Latest Map Revisions

As part of a continuing public outreach effort, the Los Alamitos Unified School District Board has released a newly revised set of four draft maps showing how the district could be divided into trustee voting areas. The Board is moving to a trustee-area voting system because the California Voting Rights Act strongly discourages the current at-large system. Dividing the school district into trustee areas helps ensure that minority group voting rights in the community are protected and not abridged or diluted.

To date, the Board has held six Community Outreach meetings across the District and conducted four public hearings to explain the process and receive community input on draft maps of the voting areas. Based on public comment and its own deliberations, the Board at its December 10 meeting eliminated some maps from consideration and asked for revisions in others. The four maps now under consideration and the demographic data supporting them are now available on the District website (http://bit.ly/losalmaps) along with a link (http://bit.ly/losalmapview) to an interactive viewer that allows the maps to be easily compared. The interactive viewer allows individuals to zoom in and out to the street level and enter specific addresses to determine in which trustee area they would be located in each draft map.

The District will hold a fifth public hearing on the latest map revisions on Tuesday, January 7 during the regular Board meeting which begins at 6:30 PM in the District Office Board Room in Los Alamitos. Printed booklets containing the revised draft maps and demographic data will be available for all those attending the meetings, along with large-format maps on display.

The Board intends to adopt a final voting area map at its January 21 regular meeting.

Anyone unable to attend the January 7 hearing can submit comments via email at trusteeareaelection@losal.org. Complete information on the adoption of the new voting system, including frequently asked questions and timelines, can be found on the District website (<u>http://www.losal.org/Voting</u>).

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