

COAST UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2020-21 NO. 10

**RESOLUTION TO INITIATE A CHANGE OF THE DISTRICT'S
ELECTION SYSTEM TO BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS
FOR THE 2022 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**

WHEREAS, California Education Code sections 5019(a) & (c)(1) and 5030 authorize the San Luis Obispo County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”), upon application of a school district's governing board, to change the method of election in a school district under its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Board of Trustees of the Coast Unified School District (“School District” or “District”) are currently elected in “at-large” elections, i.e., elections in which “each governing board member [is] elected by the registered voters of the entire school district” [Education Code section 5030(a)]; and

WHEREAS, “at-large” electoral systems like the one currently used by the District, have been subjected to challenges throughout the State under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), Elections Code sections 14025-14032; and

WHEREAS, although the “at-large” method of electing board members has and does serve residents well, the Coast Unified School District does not wish to encounter the risk of costly litigation; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board of Trustees believes that starting with the 2022 board elections, after the 2020 census results, the District intends to transition its method of selecting board members to one in which board members residing in each trustee area are elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area; and

WHEREAS, data from the federal 2020 Census, when available, will permit trustee areas to be drawn and implemented using the most up-to-date demographic data available and will consider all relevant factors; and

WHEREAS, the District shall undertake a professional study based on the federal census data to determine the demographic makeup of the District for potential trustee areas that adequately takes into account members of protected classes under CVRA and satisfies other requirements in the Education Code and Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, although Education Code section 5020 requires that a County Committee’s resolution approving a change in the method of electing board members be submitted to the electorate for its approval at the district's next regular election, the Board of Trustees intends to seek a waiver of the voter approval requirement as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, Education Code sections 33050-33053 authorize the State Board of Trustees to waive this voter approval requirement, which could reduce the costs associated with this proposed change in the manner of electing board members; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

A. The Board intends to take all needed and appropriate steps to move from an at-large system of electing members of the Board of Trustees to a by-trustee area system beginning in 2022, following the 2020 Census results.


B. The Board shall undertake a professional study based on the Federal 2020 Census to determine the demographic makeup, including the identification of members of protected classes, within the District for potential trustee area boundary lines for elections by trustee areas in 2022.

C. Before submitting a specific proposal to the County Committee for a trustee area plan using the federal census data, public hearings shall be scheduled to obtain public input on such proposals.

D. The Board of Trustees intends to apply to the San Luis Obispo County Committee for establishment of trustee areas pursuant to Education Code section 5019(a) in a timely manner to have the 2022 elections for the board conducted within the new trustee areas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Coast Unified School District Board of Trustees, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, this 11 day of February, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0


Samuel Shalhoub, Board President