



# TEMPLE CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *A District of Educational Excellence and Award Winning Schools*

### Board of Education Members

Melissa Espinoza • Donna Georgino • Mike Lin • Matt W. Smith • Mary Sneed

### Superintendent

Dr. Kimberly Fricker

## **CVRA By-Trustee Area Voting Information**

### **What's the difference between at-large and by-trustee area elections?**

Currently, the District has an at-large election system, where voters of the entire District are able to vote for all members of the Board. Switching to by-trustee elections will require the District to create five geographic trustee areas within the District, each assigned to one seat on the Board. Voters within each trustee area will vote only for candidates for the seat on the Board assigned to their trustee area.

### **What is the California Voting Rights Act?**

Senate Bill 976, also known as the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA), 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 to a "by-trustee area" election system and pay the plaintiff's attorneys, experts, and other expenses. Jurisdictions that fought CVRA claims have paid settlement or judgment amounts ranging from \$3,000 to over \$4 million. Moreover, a potential plaintiff can recover up to \$35,000 in attorneys' fees for preparing a demand letter even if an agency immediately makes the change to by-trustee area elections. To date, no local agency has successfully defended itself against a CVRA challenge.

### **Why is the District transitioning to by-trustee area elections?**

Like more than 300 school districts and 100 cities across the state, the District is making this change in large part due to the CVRA. While the District does not believe that its current form of elections violates the CVRA, it does believe that it is in the public interest to begin the process to transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections to minimize the future potential for impermissible racially-polarized voting or legal claims. The only election system that provides the District complete protection from a CVRA legal claim is a by-trustee area election system.

### **Who creates the trustee area boundaries?**

The Board will work with a professional demographer to create proposed trustee area boundaries which will be refined and revised following the public's input. Ultimately, the Board will adopt a proposed map which will be reviewed and approved by the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization.

**Temple City Unified School District  
Timeline for Trustee Area Map Development**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Task</u>
<u>September 22</u>	Board Meeting	Adopt Intent Resolution
<u>October 13</u>	Board Meeting	First Pre-Map Hearing
<u>October 27</u>	Board Meeting	Approve Demographer Contract
<u>November 10</u>	Board Meeting	Second Pre-Map Hearing
<u>December 8</u>	Board Meeting	Third Pre-Map Hearing (DD Presentation Regarding Line Drawing, Public Input, Board Input On Lines)
<u>January 19</u>	Online	Draft Maps Posted On District Website
<u>January 26</u>	Board Meeting	First Map Hearing (DD Presentation, Public Input, Board Direction)
<u>February 2</u>	Online	Revised Draft Maps Posted On District Website
<u>February 9</u>	Board Meeting	Second Map Hearing (DD Presentation, Public Input, Board Direction)
<u>February 16</u>	Online	Revised Draft Maps Posted On District Website
<u>February 23</u>	Board Meeting	Third Map Hearing (DD Presentation, Public Input, Board Direction); Board Adoption of Maps
<u>Spring 2022</u>	LA CCSDO	Hearing/Approval by Los Angeles County Committee On School District Organization

**When will the new trustee areas take effect?**

Once the transition is approved, Board elections will be transitioned to by-trustee area elections beginning with the 2022 election. The current Board members will continue in office until the expiration of their terms in 2022 or 2024.

**How will the change to by-trustee area elections affect me?**

Beginning in 2022, voters will only be able to vote for one Board member who resides in the trustee area in which they live.

**Where can I learn more?**

Please feel free to contact Marie Montero, Executive Assistant III, with any comments or questions by calling 626-548-5031 or by email at [maps@tcusd.net](mailto:maps@tcusd.net)