

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)



► TRUSTEE AREA PROCESS

NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUGUST 4, 2021



COOPERATIVE
STRATEGIES
ASSESS • PLAN • FUND • BUILD

► BACKGROUND

WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (“CVRA”)?

- Took effect January 1, 2003.
- Prohibits the use of “at-large” elections when such an election system:

“impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election....”

–(Elections Code §14027.)

► TYPES OF ELECTIONS

NUSD currently uses at-large elections and is transitioning to by-trustee area elections

AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

Candidates must reside within the District's boundaries and are elected by all the voters who reside in the District's boundaries (Education Code Section 5030(a)). This is the method of election currently used by Natomas Unified School District ("NUSD").

FROM-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS

Note: This type of election does not meet requirements of federal law

Candidates must reside in specific geographic areas within the District's boundaries called "Trustee Areas" but are elected by all the voters who reside in the District's boundaries (Education Code Section 5030(c)).

BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTIONS

Candidates must reside in specific Trustee Areas within the District's boundaries and are elected only by the voters who reside in the same Trustee Areas (Education Code Section 5030(b)). ***This method of election is the only method that is safe from challenge under the California Voting Rights Act.***

Timeline

Date	Action
January 20, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	Board adopted Resolution 21-03 of intent to initiate transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections beginning with the 2022 governing board election
July 21, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	Present timeline for transition to by-trustee area elections
August 4, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	• Demographer presents on map development process, criteria, etc. • Pre-map public hearing #1

Timeline Continued

Date	Action
August 5 - August 31 	District meets with stakeholders • Associations - NTA & CSEA - August 16, 2021 • Charter Leaders - August 16, 2021 • DELAC - August 19, 2021 • Community Advisory Council (CAC) - August 23, 2021 • Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council - August 25, 2021 • Natomas Chamber of Commerce - August 25, 2021 • Natomas Schools Foundation - August 25, 2021
<i>Estimate:</i> Late August 2021	Federal Census data received by the state of CA
September 1, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	• Pre-map public hearing #2

Timeline Continued

Date	Action
October 27, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	• Demographer presents proposed maps. • Map review public hearing #1
November 17, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	• Demographer presents proposed maps. • Map review public hearing #2
December 14, 2021 (Regular Board Meeting)	Public hearing and adopt Final Resolution
January/February 2022	County Committee public hearing and action in regards to district's proposal

Timeline Continued

Date	Action
November 2022	Elections for trustee area seats by trustee-area
November 2024	Elections for remaining trustee-area seats by trustee-area

► CONSIDERATIONS IN TRUSTEE AREAS



Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants



Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible



Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act



Respect incumbency, if possible



Compact and contiguous, as much as possible



Other local considerations (i.e., school boundaries, locations of school sites)

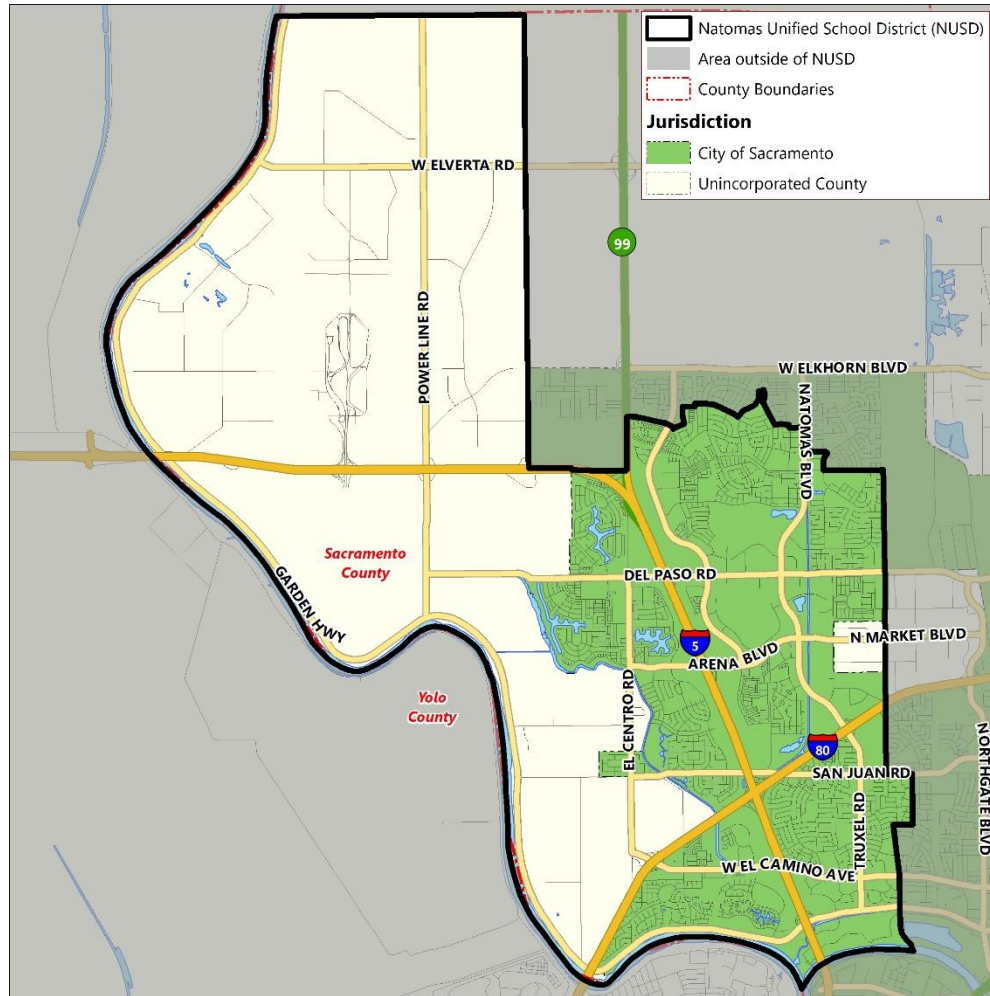


Respect communities of interest, as much as possible

The law requires that we look at this every 10 years.

► DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Natomas is an example of why the law requires it - some of the demographic shifts in the last 10 years have been significant

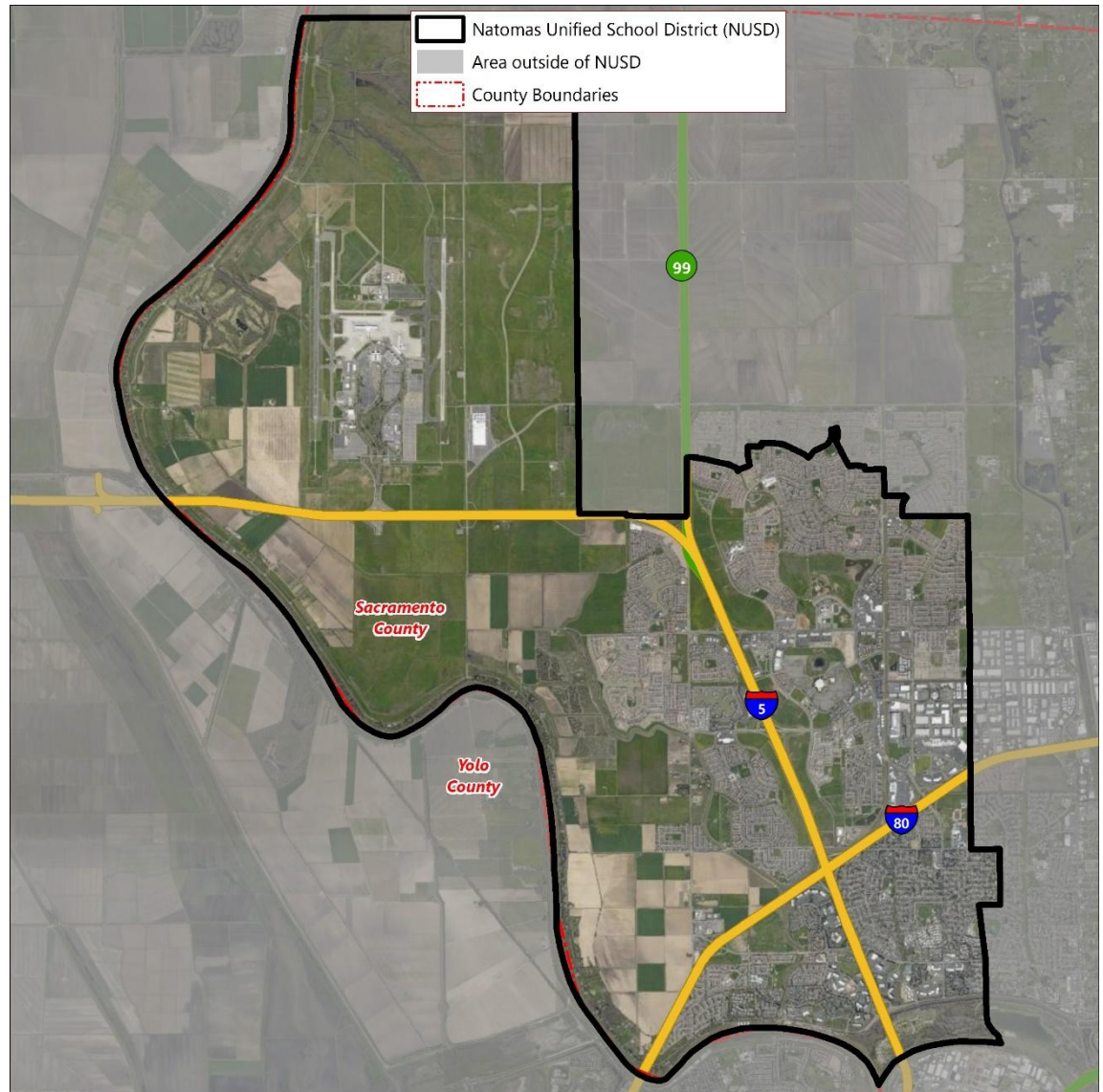


	Natomas Population (2010 Census Data)		NUSD Enrollment (2020-2021)
	Total	%	%
Population			
Hispanic/Latino	16,987	23.78%	32%
White	24,549	34.37%	16%
Black / African American	10,724	15.01%	16.3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	321	0.45%	0.5%
Asian	13,951	19.53%	17.6%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	722	1.01%	1.6%
Other	3,944	5.52%	5%
Two or More Races	228	0.32%	11%
Total	71,426	100.00%	100.0%

► HOW SHOULD LINES BE DRAWN?

Major streets and highways often act as natural boundaries and help map makers (demographers)

Major landmarks can also help identify Trustee areas



- Your feedback *could* look like this, and will help the demographer learn more about our community as they put the draft maps together:

“I would like to keep Neighborhood X and Neighborhood Y in the same trustee area...”

I think:

- *Arena Boulevard*
- *Natomas Boulevard*
- *Del Paso Road*

... may make sense as a trustee area boundary because ...

- It keeps communities together
- It provides good representation

- Your feedback *could* look like this, and will help the demographer learn more about our community as they put the draft maps together:

I think:

- All of Y community should be in one area
- Each elementary or middle school boundary should be in multiple/single areas
- Every trustee area should serve multiple school boundaries/sites

. . . may make sense as a trustee area boundary because . . .

- It keeps communities together
- It provides good representation

For the most up-to-date information on the transition to by
Trustee-areas, please visit our website here:

<https://natomasunified.org/board-of-trustees/transition-to-by-trustee-area-elections/>

QUESTIONS?

Please provide feedback [here](#)