

2025-2026
SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2601 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA 93560 (661) 256-5000

The YouTube access link to the live meeting broadcast will be available under “Announcements” at www.skusd.k12.ca.us prior to 7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

Tuesday,

January 20, 2026

Meeting Location:

2601 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA 93560

Open Session 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Robert Vincelette, President
Sunni Hepburn, Vice President
Justin Wright, Clerk
Adrienne Rendon, Member
Mario Gutierrez, Member
Aliyah Finch, Student Board Member

Superintendent

Barbara Gaines

SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Open Session 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2601 Rosamond Blvd.,
Conference Room, Rosamond, CA

I. Call to order – (time)

II. Procedural Issues: A recording of this meeting is being made and shall be kept for 30 days as a public record (as applicable).

A. Pledge of Allegiance led by: _____

B. Roll Call - Members Present:

_____ Robert Vincelette, President _____ Sunni Hepburn, Vice President _____ Justin Wright, Clerk
_____ Adrienne Rendon, Member _____ Mario Gutierrez, Member _____ Aliyah Finch, Student Board Member

C. Approve the agenda

ACTION

MOTION: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch	SECOND: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon,
VOTE: YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN ___ STUDENT ADVICE ___	Gutierrez, Finch

Comments from the Public: Members of the public may address the Board on any item within the jurisdiction of the Board by submitting presentation requests to the secretary or an email. Members of the public are strongly urged not to mention personnel by name and are reminded that they do not have immunity from legal action if personnel is named. The Board may limit each speaker to 3 minutes with a total of 20 minutes per topic.

III. General

A. Presentation Regarding Proposed Trustee Area Plans (*Attachments:* Presentation by Demographer, Proposed Maps) – *Dr. Levitt* PRESENTATION

B. Public Hearing Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010(a)(2) to Receive Public Input Regarding the Content of Draft Trustee Area Maps and Proposed Sequence of Elections – *Pafford* INFORMATIONAL

Recess Business Meeting/**Open** Public Hearing: Time: _____

MOTION: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch	SECOND: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon,
VOTE: YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN ___ STUDENT ADVICE ___	Gutierrez, Finch

Public Hearing Comments:

Close Public Hearing/Reconvene into Regular Session: Time: _____

MOTION: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch	SECOND: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon,
VOTE: YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN ___ STUDENT ADVICE ___	Gutierrez, Finch

C. Board Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution 25-26-08 Authorizing Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System, Adopt Trustee Area Plan, and Establish Sequence of Election (*Attachment:* Proposed Resolution) – *Gaines* DISCUSSION/ACTION

MOTION: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch	SECOND: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon,
VOTE: YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN ___ STUDENT ADVICE ___	Gutierrez, Finch

IV. Adjournment

ACTION

MOTION: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch	SECOND: Vincelette, Hepburn, Wright,
VOTE: YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN ___ STUDENT ADVICE ___ TIME: _____	Rendon, Gutierrez, Finch



Southern Kern Unified School District Introduction to Districting

January 20, 2025

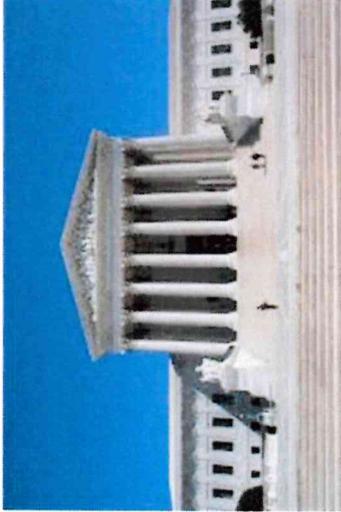
Districting Process

Step	Description
<p>Two Initial Hearings November 5 & 19</p>	<p>Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.</p>
<p>Release draft maps By November 21</p>	<p>Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3rd hearing.</p>
<p>Two hearings on draft maps December 10 and 17</p>	<p>Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.</p>
<p>Final Hearing & Board Action January 20, 2026</p>	<p>Special meeting for Board selection of a map and election sequence.</p>
<p>County Committee Hearing To be determined</p>	<p>Following the Board's selection of a preferred map, the County Committee on School District Organization will hold a hearing and must approve a map.</p>

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria

In prioritized order:

- Geographically contiguous**
- Avoid division of neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
- Cities and CDP’s**
- Easily identifiable boundaries**
- Compact**
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

2. California Prohibition

“Shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.”

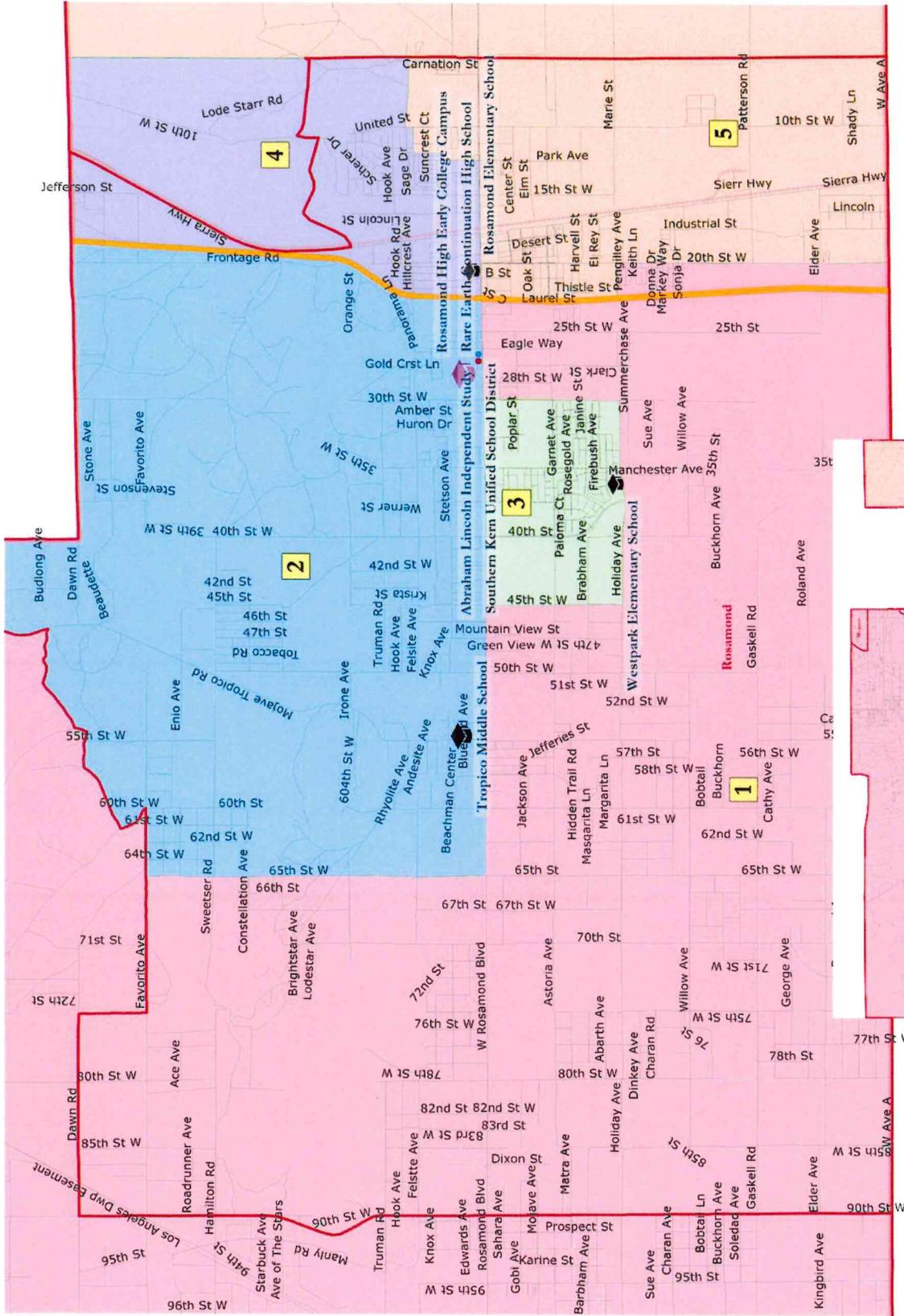
3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Future population growth
Other local considerations

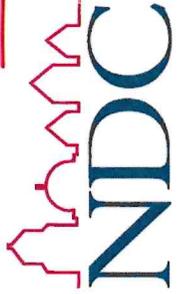
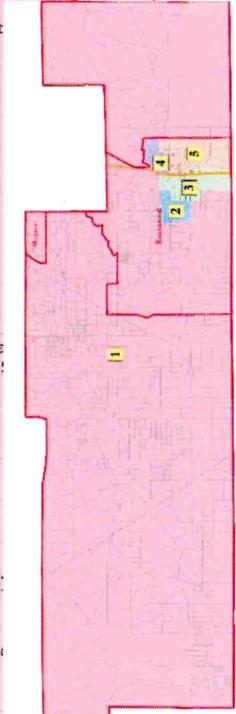
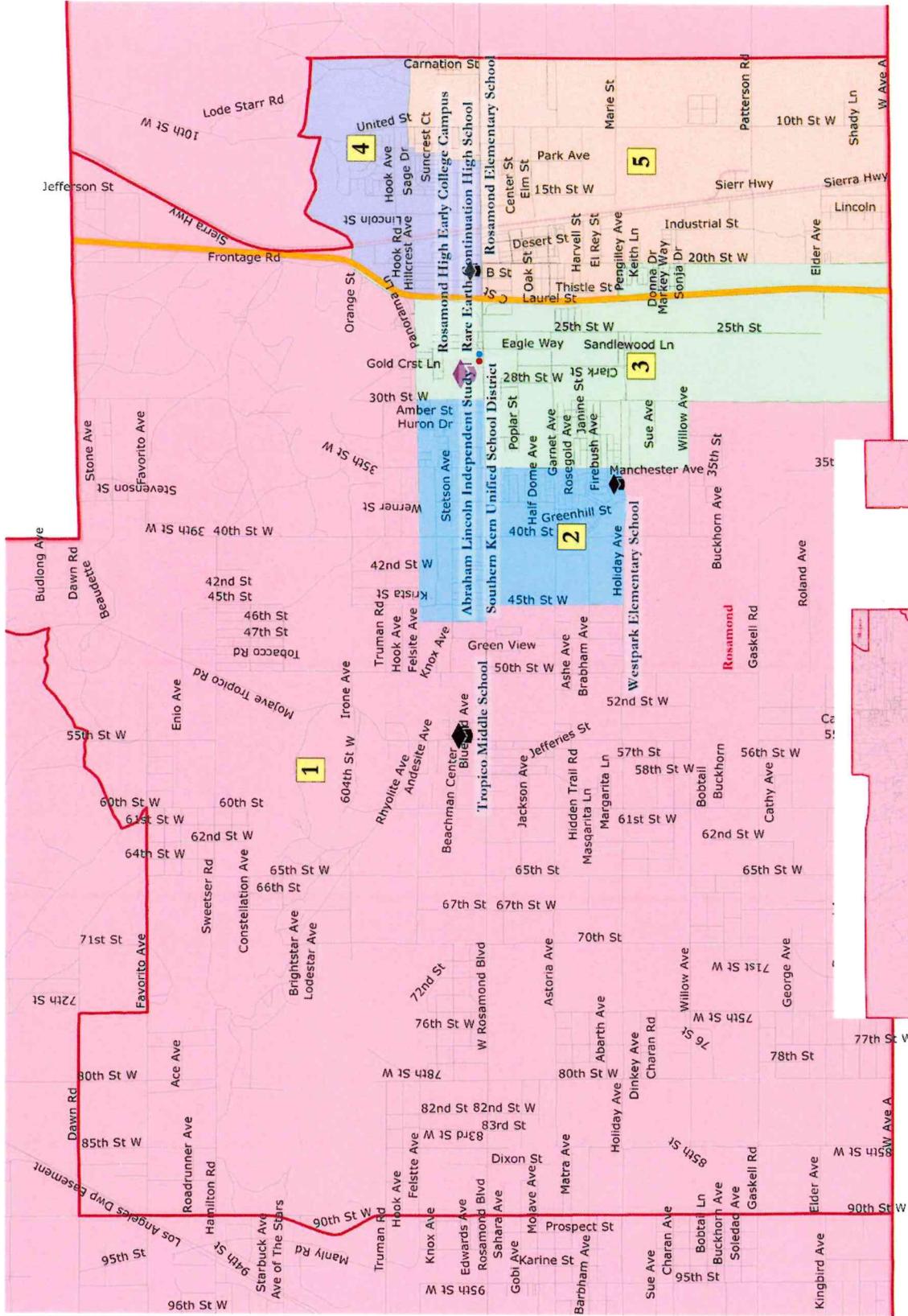
Draft maps

Maps are also available on the [Interactive Review Map](#)

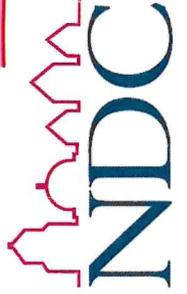
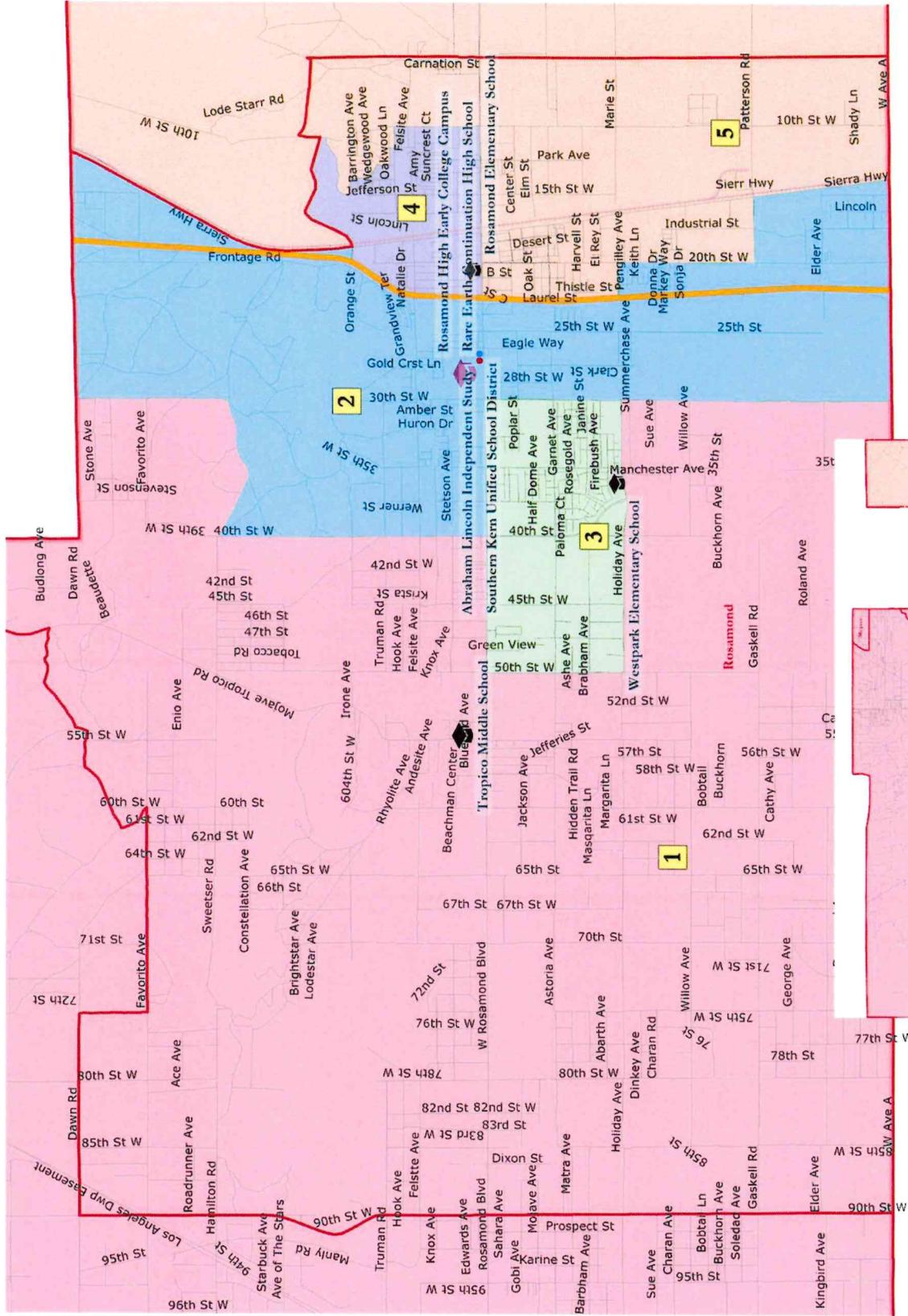
Green Map



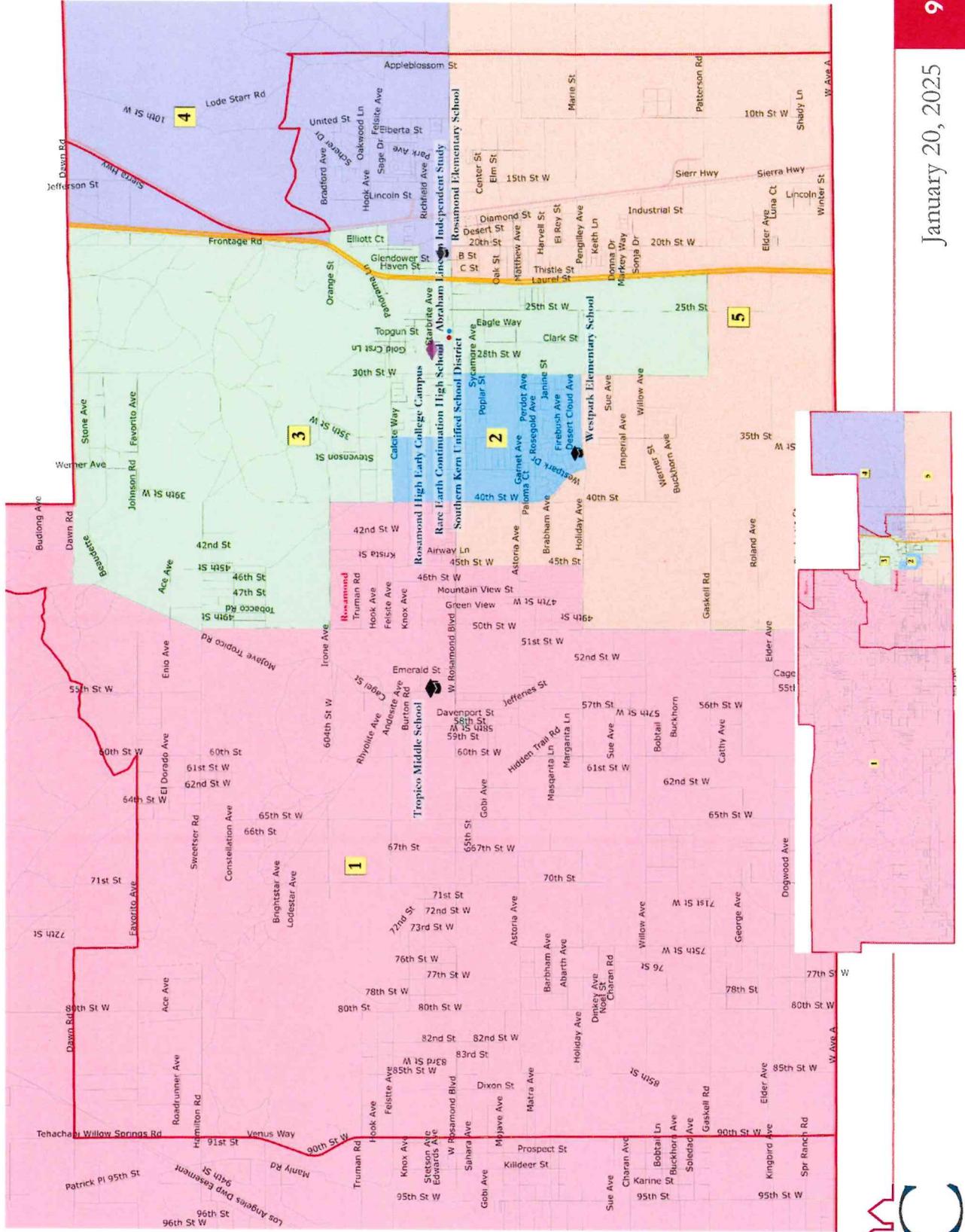
Orange Map



Purple Map



Yellow 2 Map



Sequence of Elections

- Elections Code §11010 requires us to propose a sequence of elections – which areas will hold their first election in 2026 and which in 2028.
- As the maps were drawn without consideration of current or potential Board members, these sequences serve as examples only and may be revised after selection of the final map pursuant to Education Code §5009.
- All Maps
 - 2026 Election: Trustee Areas 1, 3 & 5
 - 2028 Election: Trustee Areas 2 & 4

**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of Adopting Trustee Areas for the Election of Southern Kern Unified School District Trustees, for Submission to the Kern County Committee on School District Organization Pursuant to Education Code §§ 5019, 5020 and 5030.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-08

Resolution by the Governing Board to Adopt Trustee Areas for Submission to the Kern County Committee on School District Organization (Education Code sections 5019, 5020 & 5030)

RECITALS

1. Members of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Southern Kern 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
2. California Education Code sections 5019(a) & (c)(1) and 5030 authorize the Kern 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
3. At its regular meeting on October 22, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-26-01, formally initiating the process of changing the District’s method of election to “by-trustee area” elections, *i.e.*, elections in which “one or more members residing in each trustee area be elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area [.]” California Education Code section 5030(b); and
4. On November 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and November 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., respectively, pursuant to California Elections Code section 10010(a)(1), the Board held public hearings where the public was invited to provide input regarding the composition of the District’s trustee areas before any draft maps were drawn; and
5. On November 21, 2025, the District made public by posting on the District’s website at www.skusd.k12.ca.us three draft trustee area maps and a proposed sequence of elections (the Green, Purple, and Orange Maps), prepared by National Demographics Corporation (“NDC”), which maps also demonstrated that a minority group, Latinos, is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district, as set forth in *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986); and

6. On December 10, 2025, the District made public two additional draft trustee area plans (the Yellow and Yellow 2 maps) and a proposed sequence of elections, prepared by National Demographics Corporation (“NDC”), which were posted on the District’s website at www.skusd.k12.ca.us, and
7. On December 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and December 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., respectively, pursuant to California Elections Code section 10010(a)(2), the Board held public hearings where the public was invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft maps that had been published at least seven (7) days before each meeting, and the proposed sequence of elections, and the Board considered and discussed the same; and
8. The Board considered all public comments on the plans received at the public hearings; and
9. Throughout the foregoing process, the District engaged in a significant amount of public outreach and engagement as encouraged by California Elections Code section 10010; and
10. The Board of Trustees of the Southern Kern Unified School District Governing Board, on January 20, 2026, adopted the “[REDACTED] Map”, attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated by this reference, as the trustee area plan to be submitted to the County Committee for its consideration and adoption pursuant to Education Code section 5019(c)(1); and
11. The populations in the proposed trustee areas of the “[REDACTED] Map” are substantially equal in population, in compliance with legal requirements; and
12. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. section 10301, prohibits the use of any voting qualification, or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color, and the “[REDACTED] Map” complies with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act; and
13. The “[REDACTED] Map” provides for the use of a single-member, by-trustee area electoral system, and thereby complies with the California Voting Rights Act; and
14. The trustee areas in the “[REDACTED] Map” are contiguous and drawn to respect communities of interest, to the extent possible, while still complying with equal population requirements and federal and state law; and
15. The trustee areas of the “[REDACTED] Map” are drawn to follow major thoroughfares, so that Trustee Area boundaries are easily identifiable and understandable by residents, and to be compact to the extent possible; and
16. In accordance with state law, the proposed Trustee Area Map includes a sequencing of elections in the Trustee Areas as follows: Trustee Area 1 (20[REDACTED]), Trustee

Area 2 (20___), Trustee Area 3 (20___); Trustee Area 4 (20___), Trustee Area 5 (20___), and approval of the proposed Trustee Area Map will also approve the sequencing of elections in the Trustee Areas.

17. The Trustee Areas in the ___ Map do not favor or discriminate against any incumbent trustee, candidate, or political party.

18. Pursuant to Education Code section 5020(b), the Board requests that the County Committee order the changes requested in this Resolution without an election because this change is being made in response to a demand under the California Voting Rights Act and furthers the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with section 14025) of Division 14 of the Elections Code).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

A. The above Recitals are true and correct.

B. The Board hereby submits the "___ Map", attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by this reference, to the County Committee and requests that the County Committee consider and adopt the "___ Map" pursuant to Education Code sections 5019(a) and (c)(1) as the by-trustee area electoral plan for the Southern Kern Unified School District, along with the election sequence specified in Recital 16, and together with the request that the County Committee order the changes requested in the Resolution without an election in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act.

C. The District's Superintendent and/or designee shall take all action necessary to notify the County Committee of the Board's determination and provide whatever assistance may be required by the County Committee, or by the Kern County Elections Department, to complete the process of establishing by-trustee area elections in single-member trustee areas in a timely fashion to permit implementation of these trustee areas in connection with the election for Board of Trustees to be held on ___.

D. Because the new trustee area plan may contain technical anomalies caused by errors in the 2020 Census line files and other factors, that do not substantively affect the populations in the trustee areas, the trustee area boundaries, or the intent of this Resolution, which anomalies are not revealed until implementation begins, the Superintendent and/or her designee is authorized to make technical emendations to the new plan that do not substantively affect the populations in the trustee areas, the trustee area boundaries, or the intent of this Resolution, and shall advise the Board of any such emendations that are found to be required in plan implementation by the County Registrar's Office or otherwise.

E. The Superintendent shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal issues necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted upon motion by Trustee _____, seconded by Trustee _____, at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 20, 2026, by the following vote or abstention of each member present:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DATED:

President, Board of Trustees
Southern Kern Unified School District

CERTIFICATION

I, Justin Wright, Clerk to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Kern Unified School District, certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 20, 2026.

DATED:

Clerk, Board of Trustees
Southern Kern Unified School District

EXHIBIT "A"

**MAP AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF
FINAL, ADOPTED TRUSTEE AREA PLAN**