



Trustee-Area Elections FAQ

Why is the district moving away from at-large to trustee-area elections?

In January, the District received a letter alleging that its method of electing members of the Board of Election via an at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act. The letter also alleges that the District has a history of racially polarized voting. Since that time, a lawsuit has been filed to compel the District to move to trustee-area elections.

What's the difference between at-large and district-based elections?

At-large elections occur when each trustee is elected by all voters within the District. Trustee-area elections, also known as district-based or ward elections, occur when each trustee must reside within the designated trustee-area boundary, and is elected only by the voters in that area.

Does this change where my child attends school?

No. This does not affect school boundaries. This does change how members of the Board of Education are elected. Those Board members do, however, vote on school boundaries when and if the issue is brought forward.

What is racially polarized voting?

Racially polarized voting occurs when there is a difference between the choice of candidates preferred by voters in a protected class and the choice of candidates preferred by voters in the rest of the electorate.

Is there racially polarized voting in the District?

The legal and statistical analysis to determine whether there is racially polarized voting in the District has not been done.

What needs to happen before we move to trustee-area elections?

Before the transition is completed, the Board of Education must approve trustee-area boundary maps, get them approved by the County Commission on School District Organization (Contra Costa County Board of Education), and ask the voters whether the District should transition to trustee-area elections. If the voters approve the transition, then the District will move to trustee-area elections in the next election.

When will district-based elections take place?

If the ballot measure is approved by voters, the first trustee-area elections will take place in 2020. However, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit may ask the courts to compel the District to make the transition sooner.

How does this affect my vote?

Instead of voting for all five members of the Board of Education, you will vote for the trustee who represents your area of the District.

How do I get my voice heard on this transition?

You can attend a public hearing on the matter (a minimum of five must be held) or you can send an email to communications@wccusd.net.

How do we have input on the maps that are being drawn?

Draft maps will be presented to the public for review and discussion at a public hearing. You will have a minimum of one week to review the maps before any public hearings.

How do I keep up on the news regarding this issue?

Information is available at <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/10825>. You can also follow the District [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.