

CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

This information and FAQs regarding redistricting will assist in your understanding of the process. If we receive questions from the community that will be relevant to add, we will update this document.

How are the San Dieguito Union High School District Trustees elected?

There are five trustees on the Board of the San Dieguito Union High School District. Each trustee represents a specific geographic area, which is called a "trustee area" or election district. Residents of each trustee area vote only for candidates who live in their area. Candidates for each Board seat must live in the trustee area they wish to represent. This is called a by-district election system.

What is redistricting and why is it needed now?

Every 10 years, a new U.S. Census is conducted. Pursuant to Education Code 5019.5, by-trustee area districts are required to evaluate whether their current trustee area map has equal population across its trustee areas within a 10% variance, using the new population counts in the most recent federal census. If not, the trustee area boundaries need to be adjusted to re-balance trustee area populations. Due to population changes, our District is not in compliance with the equal population rule and therefore the trustee areas must be adjusted. The redistricting process is governed by the U.S. Constitution, federal law, and California law.

When will the new trustee area map be used?

The new trustee areas will be in effect for the November 2022 elections. The deadline for adoption of a revised trustee area map is February 28, 2022. This allows time for the county Registrar of Voters to adjust precinct boundaries before the November election filing deadline.

What criteria are used to create trustee areas?

Federal and state laws require that the trustee areas be nearly equal in population using the most recent Census counts. Some deviation is permitted, but the rule of thumb is that the difference between the most- and least-populous election districts should not exceed 10% of the "ideal" district's population, which is one fifth of our District's total population.

Federal law also requires that election districts be drawn to respect protected race/ethnic groups so that such communities are not unnecessarily divided. Protected groups are defined as historically underrepresented race/ethnic/language groups, which include but are not limited to Latino/Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans (as well as some others).

In addition, the California Elections Code (Section 22000) lists criteria that can be considered during the redistricting (and initial districting process):

In adjusting the boundaries of the divisions, the board can consider the following factors: (1) topography, (2) geography, (3) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (4) community of interests of the division.

Who creates the maps and how can the public participate in the process?

The District hired a professional demographer (Cooperative Strategies), who has created three initial alternative maps for consideration by the public and the Trustees, labeled as Map 1, Map 2, and Map 3.

Members of the public can submit their own proposed maps using this website.

It is anticipated that maps submitted by the public will be analyzed by the demographer for compliance with the law. If a map submitted by a member of the public complies with the requirements, as analyzed by the demographer, the demographer will create an electronic representation which will then be published on this website. There can be no guarantee that a map submitted by the public can properly be adjusted to satisfy the legal requirements.

Members of the public can comment on any of the specific maps or on the overall process on this website. The trustees will have access to all public comments.

In addition, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment publicly at each Board meeting where this topic is on the agenda per the policies and procedures established by the Board. The Board will also hold “electronic town halls” for members of the public to ask questions and provide input on the process or on specific maps.

Members of the public can send an email to the address: cvra@sduhsd.net with any questions about the redistricting process.

What Are "Communities of Interest"?

A community of interest is a geographical area (such as a neighborhood) that would benefit from being in the same district because of shared interests, views, or characteristics. Downtown areas, historic districts, and housing subdivisions are a few examples of areas that would be communities of interest (there are many more).

Defined regions like cities, school districts, and school attendance areas may sometimes be considered communities of interest. Geographic characteristics can identify communities, such as those on one side of a mountain range, highway, around a park, or another publicly recognized region.

Has the pandemic affected the redistricting process?

Because of the COVID pandemic, there was a substantial delay in the release of the 2020 census data. Our final maps must be submitted to the County by February 28, 2022 to be in compliance with the law.

Who decides which map to adopt?

The Board of Trustees will select a map establishing election district boundaries. The current schedule as approved by the Board is as follows.

January 11	Regular Board Meeting to agree on process and timeline.
January 17	Website and system launched to allow for public input and submission of alternative maps for Board consideration.
January 20	Regular Board Meeting. Review and revise the process as appropriate.
February 4	Submission deadline for alternative map submissions.
February 10	Special Board Meeting to select final three Trustee Area Map alternatives.
February TBD	Final Trustee Area Maps reviewed by Legal Counsel/Demographer to ensure compliance with the law.
February 17	Regular Board Meeting to adopt Final Trustee Area Map.

The Board of Trustees may change this process or the dates by a vote of the Board. In any event, the final map must be adopted by the Board by February 28, 2022.

[May redistricting plans respect incumbency so that there is only one governing board member in each election district?](#)

Yes, all board members were voted in using the by-trustee area system of election. The board is allowed to consider and respect the voice of the communities that voted in present trustees, under the present trustee area map. Boundaries that take incumbency into account still must be reasonable and adhere to existing state and federal laws.

[What will happen to current members of the Board of Trustees if election district boundaries change?](#)

Current Board Members will continue in office until the expiration of their terms and their successors are elected. The first elections using the new boundaries will be in November 2022. Because Board elections are staggered (some trustees elected in 2022 and the rest elected in November 2024), the new plan will be completely implemented in 2024. If current Trustees' terms end in 2024, they will continue to sit on the Board until the 2024 election, even if they live in the same election district as a Board member elected in 2022.

[What is the California Fair Maps Act of 2019 and does it apply to our District?](#)

The California Fair Maps Act of 2019 (AB 849) applies to cities and counties, but not to school districts.