



Redlands Unified School District

By-Trustee Area Criteria

May 7, 2016

The Redlands Unified School District Board of Education will change from the longstanding process of selecting Board of Education members through an "at-large" elections process and move to elections "by-trustee area" to be compliant with the California Voting Rights Act. Thus, effective for the November 2018 Board elections, Board candidates in each area will be elected only by voters who reside in that specific trustee area.

In this transition, the District will initiate the creation of election areas that will follow the criteria listed in this document. Using data from the 2010 Census, the District's consultant, Dolinka Group, will create conceptual trustee area scenarios that divide the District into five new voting areas.

Once conceptual trustee area maps have been developed, the District will host a series of public forums to collect community input regarding the proposed area maps and allow community members to provide comments. Following community input, the Board of Education anticipates selecting by-trustee maps in the fall of 2016.

The California Voting Right Act recognizes the following as permissible criteria for the development of trustee areas:

- Each Trustee Area shall contain a nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Each Trustee Area shall be drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Each Trustee Area shall be contiguous, as much as possible
- Trustee boundaries shall respect communities of interest*, as much as possible
- Trustee boundaries shall follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible

In addition, Boards can elect to use other criteria so long as they do not violate the Federal Voting Rights Act. Recognizing that Redlands Unified School District serves the cities of Redlands, Highland, Loma Linda, San Bernardino and the communities of Forest Falls, and Mentone, as well as unincorporated areas of the County, the Board's desire for its Trustees to represent the *entire District* rather than specific areas. Therefore, to accomplish this goal additional criteria to be considered are:

- Each Trustee Area shall include portions of at least two cities or communities
- Each Trustee Area should contain portions of two High School attendance boundaries
- Each Trustee Area must contain multiple school sites (physical location) within its boundaries
- Each Trustee Area must contain multiple elementary or middle school attendance boundaries within its boundaries

**Communities of interest may include neighborhoods, the District's underlying elementary school attendance areas and elementary school "feeder" districts, high school attendance areas, rural or urban populations, municipalities, social interests, agricultural, industrial or service industry interests, and the like, insofar as practicable.*