

Natomas Unified School District

Proposal to Change Election Methods, Adopt Trustee Areas Map, and Establish Sequence of Elections

January 11, 2022

Chris Evans, NUSD Superintendent

Justin Rich and/or Doug Mende,
Cooperative Strategies

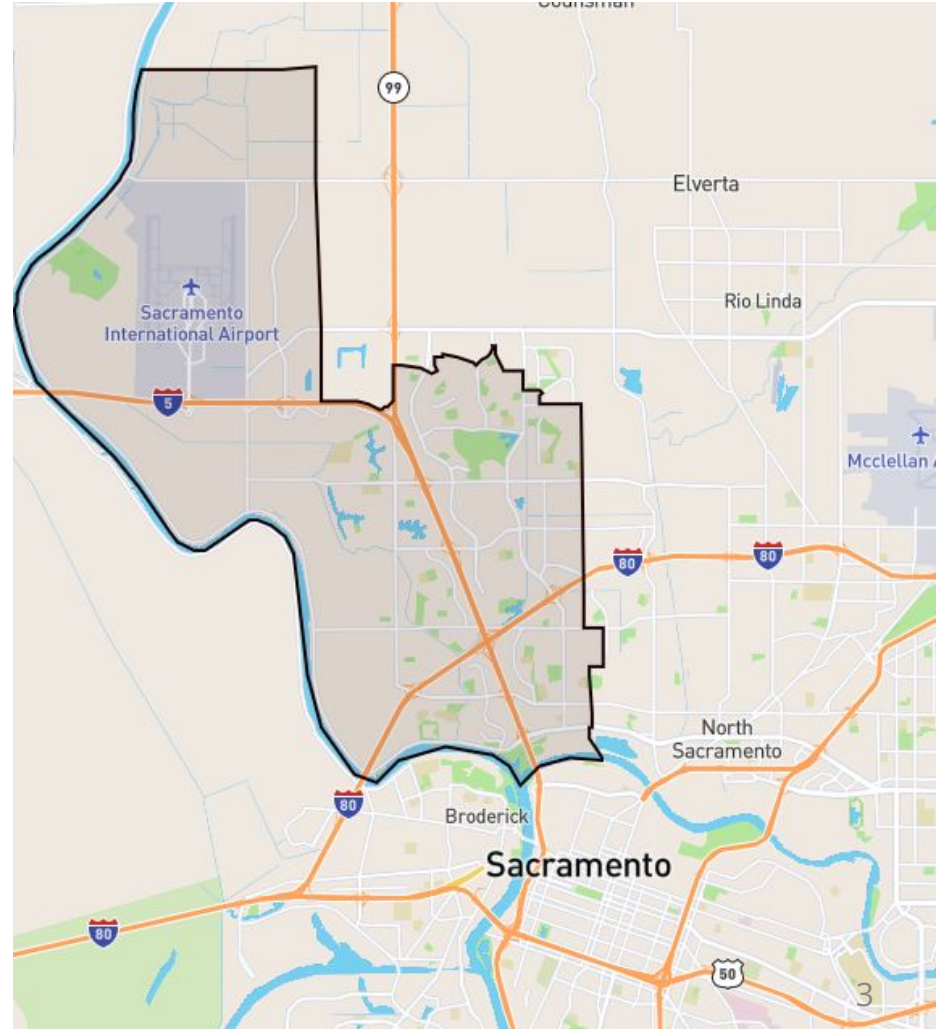
Roman J. Muñoz, Lozano Smith

Objectives

- Review Process To Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections
- Overview of NUSD's Comprehensive Community Outreach for Education and Feedback
- Request Action from the County Committee on School District Organization

NUSD - Who We Are & Where We Are

NUSD is located in
Northwestern
Sacramento and
has approximately
16,000 students
across 21 schools





Review Process To Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections

California Voting Rights Act

- On December 16, 2020, NUSD initiated Board review on the process to transition to by trustee elections.
- On the same day, NUSD received a letter from an attorney demanding a change in NUSD's method of board elections to comply with the California Voting Rights Act.
- NUSD currently elects board members "at-large," meaning board members can reside anywhere in the District, and registered voters may vote for all seats on the board.
- The CVRA prohibits the use of "at-large" elections that impair the ability of a protected class to:
 - Elect candidates of their choice; or
 - Influence the outcome of an election

Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections

- January 20, 2021: NUSD Board unanimously adopted a Resolution of Intent to Transition to by-trustee area elections, where:
 - Trustees must reside within specific trustee areas; and
 - Only voters residing within the specific trustee area may vote for that particular trustee.

By-trustee area elections are the preferred method of Election under the CVRA.

CVRA Timelines

The Elections Code provides 90 Day "safe harbor" timeline, where plaintiffs are prohibited from filing a lawsuit if NUSD completes the process within that 90 days.

- In early 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders N-34-20 and N-48-20 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, "tolling" these timelines for public safety purpose.
- Due to the Governor's Executive Orders, the District's transition from at-large to by-trustee area board elections was placed on hold.

CVRA Timelines

- On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, lifting the “tolling” on the timelines, effective July 1, 2021.
- As a result, NUSD immediately resumed the transition process by presenting a proposed timeline during the July 21, 2021 regular board meeting.
- NUSD’s goal upon restarting the process:
 - Complete the transition with as much public outreach as possible
 - Maintain appropriate COVID-19 safety precautions in alignment with Sacramento County Public Health guidance
 - Draft maps based on 2020 census data (not 2010)

CVRA Timelines - Addressing COVID/Other Issues

- COVID-Governor's tolling order
- Census Data: Delayed in 2020
- Community Outreach: Announced proposed timeline in July 2021, prior to SB 442
- Senate Bill 442, passed in July 2021 eliminated the need to hold a special election or seek a waiver from the State Board of Education
- September 1 board meeting - continued for safety reasons
- Adjusted timeline per Mr. Rafferty's offer

From: Scott Rafferty <rafferty@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:15 PM

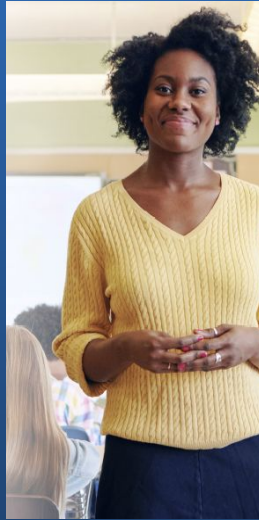
To: customerservice@natomasunified.org; Roman J. Muñoz <rmunoz@lozanosmith.com>

Cc: jbains@natomasunified.org

Subject: Completing the CVRA Process

CAUTION: External E-Mail:

The District has posted maps and must complete the hearing process by Thanksgiving to avoid litigation. This allows ample time for two additional map hearings after tomorrow night.



NUSD's Comprehensive Community Outreach for Education and Feedback

In mid-October NUSD announced that the estimated total number of potential engagements was 59,183

While that estimate likely included duplicates, the following is worth noting:

- NUSD has approximately 16,000 students across 21 schools
- Per the 2020 census, the district's boundaries have a total population of 86,905 people

Examples of Stakeholder Engagement:

- Initiated 4 community surveys, to which we received over 3,400 total responses
- Held targeted meetings with key stakeholders
- Used a dedicated webpage and dedicated email address for a 'one stop shop'. This began in August 2021 and is still up today
- Offered 3 ways for individuals to view draft map scenarios (dedicated webpage, public google folder, or pick up paper copies)
- Expanded public comment process that varied by board meeting, both virtual and in person options
- The Board held an additional meeting to take public comment, other than those required by law
- The second map consideration hearing (November 8, 2021) was a Special Board Meeting solely focused on the transition to by-trustee area elections. The meeting was held in-person at Natomas High School in South Natomas



Key Stakeholder Meetings

DATE	Key Stakeholder Group
August 16, 2021	Natomas Teachers Association (NTA)
August 16, 2021	California School Employees Association (CSEA)
August 16, 2021	NUSD Charter Leaders
August 25, 2021	Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council
August 19, 2021	District English Learners Advisory Council (DELAC)
August 23, 2021	Community Advisory Council (CAC)
August 25, 2021	Natomas Chamber of Commerce & Natomas Schools Foundation

Advertisements and Local Publication

- NUSD Website - homepage and dedicated CVRA webpage
- Spotlight Newsletter (sent to over 11,000 people)
- In the Loop staff newsletter
- Matters of Principal staff newsletter
- Email blasts to NUSD key stakeholders
- Advertised in The Natomas Buzz
- Advertised in N Magazine
- Shared information with the Presidents / leaders of various community groups throughout Natomas
- Worked with city elected officials to help share information


Examples of Website Postings, Newsletters & Other Digital / Print Media

 **natomas buzz** with Natomas Unified School District. ...
Paid Partnership · 

The Natomas Unified School District seeks feedback from the public for its transition to by-trustee area elections. Please fill out this brief survey to help the map maker know what is important to you.
<https://bit.ly/2ZIBJNa> (English)

El Natomas Unified School District busca ayuda del público para su transición a las elecciones del "by-trustee area." Complete esta encuesta para ayudar al creador de mapas a saber qué es importante para usted. <https://bit.ly/3i6niDg> (Español)


#sponsored



District Updates

By-Trustee Area Map Consideration Hearings Coming Up

As part of the district's transition to by-trustee



Board of Trustees Requests Community Input on Election Process And Proposed Maps



Natomas Unified School District
Connecting students to their future

Natomas Unified Board Meetings


Wednesday	Oct. 27
Wednesday	Nov. 17
Tuesday	Dec. 14

District will transition to a New By-Trustee Area Election Process

Learn more about the process and view proposed draft maps* at <https://natomasunified.org> or scan the QR Code

- Members of the public will have multiple options to give public comment. Please check each board agenda for specific information.
- In accordance with the law, board agendas will be posted at least 72 hours in advance at <https://natomas.agendaonline.net/public/>

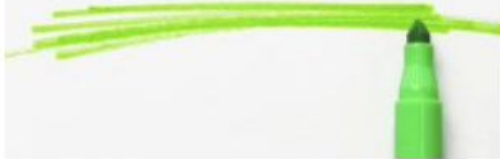
*Maps available online beginning Oct. 20, 2021




Scan here to go to our dedicated webpage to learn more

Current Feedback on Transition to T

FEEDBACK



ARTICLE INFOR

 Published on July 19,

Direct Phone Calls & Mailings

- Paper flyers sent home in student backpacks
- eFlyers sent to all NUSD households
- Worked with charter leaders to distribute eFlyers
- Distributed flyers with groceries at Joey's Food Locker
- Posted paper flyers at various locations throughout Natomas, including grocery stores, libraries, churches and apartment complexes
- Emails and phone calls home to all NUSD families when maps became available for viewing on October 20, and again on November 1
 - Both communications came with a context-setting message from the Superintendent

CVRA Dedicated Webpage

The dedicated webpage was launched in August 2021 and includes:

- Draft maps
- Documents, including sequencing, board packets, resolutions, and presentations
- Comprehensive timeline
- Community meeting information
- Forms to submit written feedback
- Most website content is available in English, Spanish, Punjabi, Russian, Tagalog

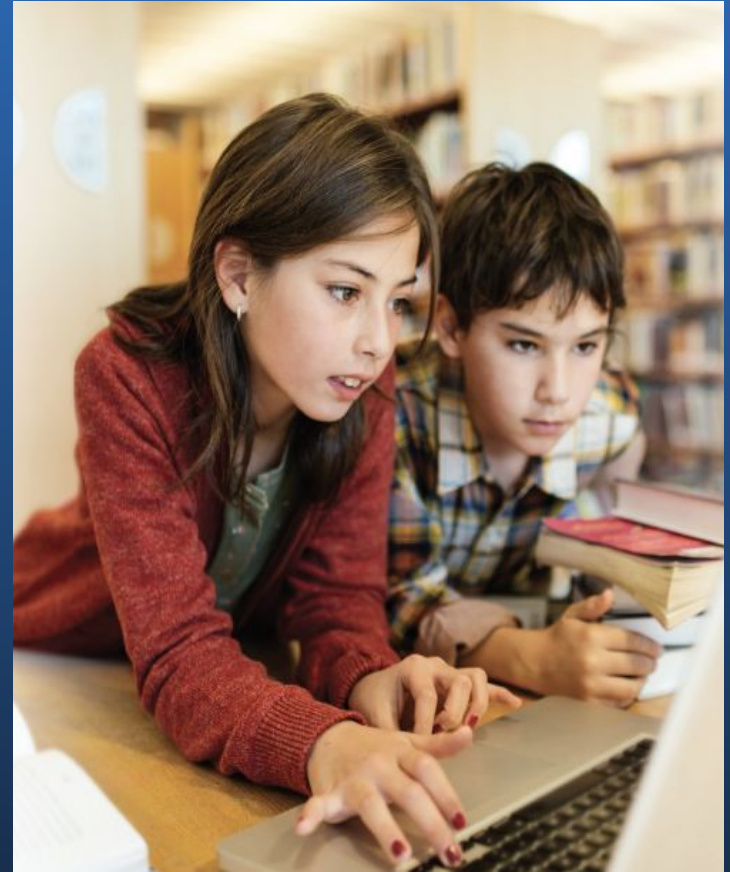
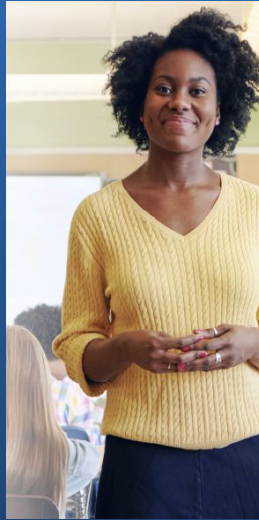
Public Board Meetings

NUSD did more than was required*

- **December 16, 2020*** - Presentation on CVRA from legal counsel
- **January 20, 2021** - Board Adopted Resolution 21-03 of intent to initiate transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections
- **July 21, 2021*** - Presentation on timeline for transition to By-Trustee Areas
- **August 4, 2021** - Pre-map public hearing #1
- **September 1, 2021** - Pre-Map public hearing #2 (meeting continued to Sept. 14, 2021)
- **October 13, 2021*** - Presentation on stakeholder engagement and update on census data
- **October 27, 2021** - Map Consideration public hearing #1
- **November 8, 2021** - Map Consideration public hearing #2
- **November 17, 2021** - Map Adoption public hearing and final adoption of Board Resolution 21-44

Also of Note...

The second map consideration hearing, held on November 8, 2021 was a Special Board Meeting solely focused on the transition to by-trustee area elections. The meeting was held in-person at Natomas High School in South Natomas



Draft Map Scenarios

Draft Maps and Sequencing Schedules Posted

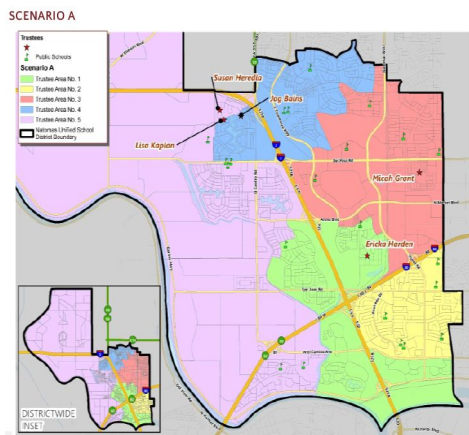
October 20, 2021: Prior to the first map consideration hearing, 5 draft maps posted with potential election sequencing schedules (Maps A-E)

November 1, 2021: As a result of Board direction at the first map considering hearing, 1 new map posted (for a total of 6 maps) with potential election sequencing schedules (Maps A-F)

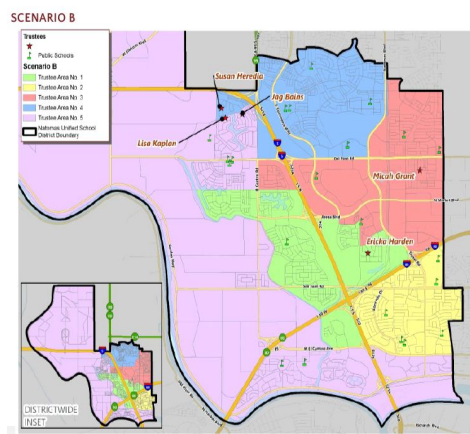
November 9, 2021: As a result of Board direction at the second map consideration hearing to eliminate 3 of the draft maps, 3 maps posted with potential election sequencing schedules (Maps, C, E, & F)

Maps and Sequencing Schedules Posted

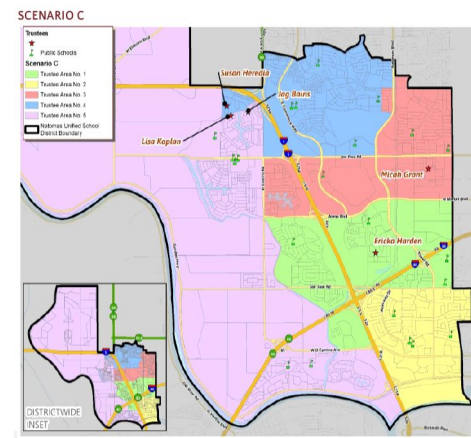
Scenario A



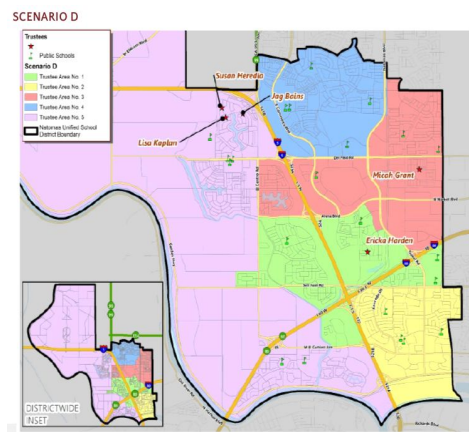
Scenario B



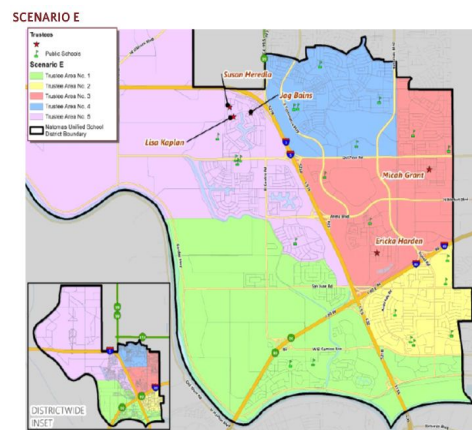
Scenario C



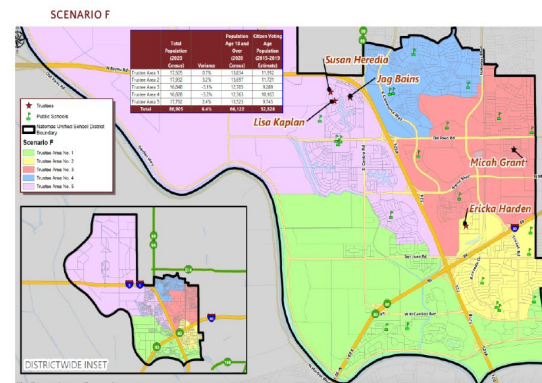
Scenario D



Scenario E

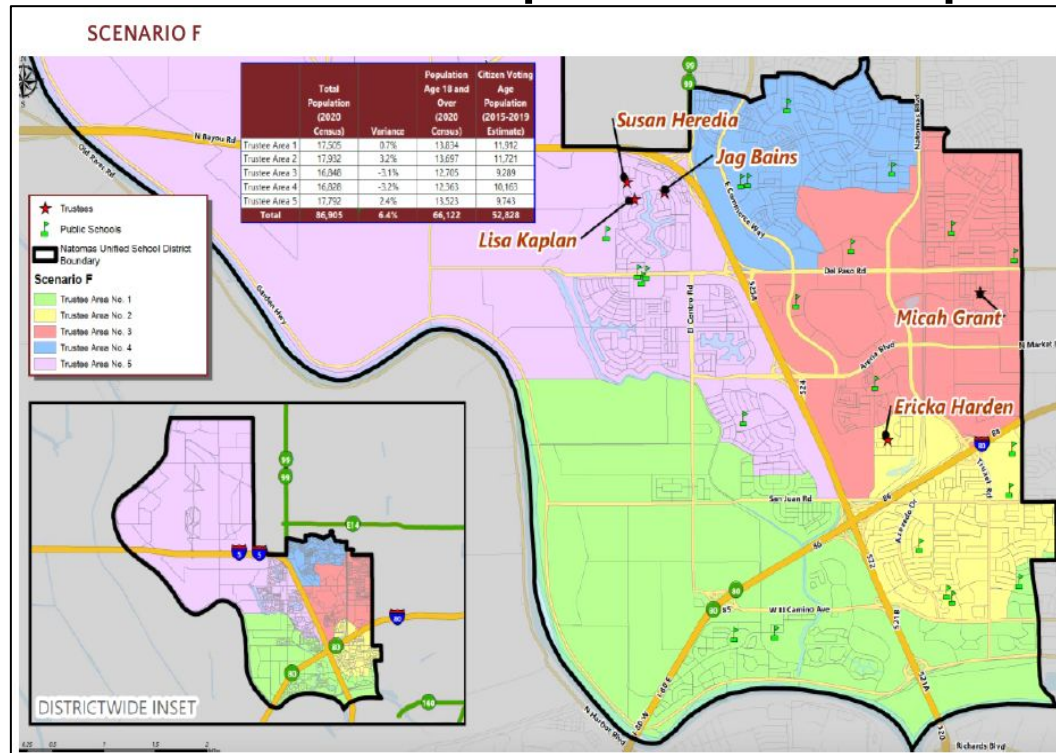


Scenario F



NUSD Board Takes Action November 17, 2021

On November 17, 2021 the NUSD Board of Trustees **unanimously** approved and recommended the adoption of Map Scenario F



Why Map F?

- Map F has two (2) predominantly South Natomas focused trustee areas, guaranteeing South Natomas representation
- Trustee area #2 in Map F meets state and federal law by maintaining a majority/minority coalition of Hispanic/Black and African American voters
- Map F created 2 vacant Trustee areas, both of which will be up for election in 2022, ensuring that all 5 Trustee areas would have a representative living within the area by December 2022 (the earliest possible date)
 - One of the other maps being considered, Map E, created 3 vacant by-Trustee areas, with only 2 seats up for election in 2022. This would leave one area without a direct representative until 2024
- Map F more equitably divided the number schools amongst the 5 Trustee areas

Also of Note...

Map F was one of two map scenarios that received the most support from the Natomas community/constituents

and

With every move except for what became Map F, changes in maps either increased the variance near the cap or eliminated a majority/minority coalition of Hispanic/Black voters in Area 2

Election Sequencing Selection – General Considerations

- When a school board transitions to trustee area elections, each incumbent is afforded the right to serve out their four-year term, regardless of how the elections are sequenced. (Ed. Code, § 5021.)
- In determining election sequencing, special consideration given to the purposes of the CVRA, and preferences expressed by the members of the district (Elec. Code, § 10010)

Process to Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections

- ☒ Adopt an Intent Resolution
January 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- ☒ 2 “pre-map” public hearings
August 4, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
September 1, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- ☒ 2 “map consideration” hearings
October 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
November 8, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- ☒ 1 “map adoption” hearing
November 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- ☐ County Committee Action
January 11, 2022

Requested Action Tonight

Approve Natomas Unified's proposal to:

- A. Adopt by-trustee area elections
- B. Adopt trustee area map (Map Scenario F)
- C. Adopt election sequencing schedule

2022: Trustee areas 1 and 4

2024: Trustee areas 2, 3, and 5