

**SIERRA JOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO TRANSITION FROM  
AT-LARGE TO BY-TRUSTEE AREA GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Sierra Joint Community College District (“District”) is currently elected using a hybrid election system, meaning that governing board members must live in defined trustee areas, but are elected by voters of the entire District;

WHEREAS, trustees are elected in even-numbered years and serve staggered, four-year terms, such that the next election for four trustees is scheduled for November 2022, with the remaining three trustees scheduled for election in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, under the California Voting Rights Act (“CVRA”), at-large elections are impermissible if they result in racially polarized voting. Racially polarized voting is defined as “voting in which there is a difference...in the choice of candidates or other electoral choices that are preferred by voters in a protected class, and in the choice of candidates and electoral choices that are preferred by voters in the rest of the electorate”;

WHEREAS, hybrid systems are considered “at-large” voting systems for purposes of the CVRA;

WHEREAS, a transition from at-large to “by-trustee area” elections, where each board member must reside within a designated trustee area boundary, and is elected only by the voters in that trustee area, minimizes the potential for litigation against the District under the CVRA;

WHEREAS the Board desires to ensure fair representation and has determined that transitioning to by-trustee elections is in the best interest of the District and its community;

WHEREAS, the District board intends to begin the process to transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections;

WHEREAS, the District board wishes to proceed with the statutorily required public hearings in a manner that is both efficient and legally sound;

WHEREAS, the District board will hold a minimum of two public hearings prior to developing proposed trustee-area boundary maps;

WHEREAS, the District board will hold a minimum of two additional public hearings to seek public input on the proposed trustee area maps developed with assistance from a demographer, prior to holding a final public hearing after which it will adopt a trustee area map.

WHEREAS, California Education Code section 72036 authorizes community colleges to transition from at-large elections to by-trustee area elections upon the approval of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges;

WHEREAS, the District intends to send its adopted trustee-area map to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges for final approval; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of “by-trustee area” elections will not affect the terms of any Board members serving or elected during this transition, each of whom will serve out his or her full term.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

1. The above recitals are true and correct;
2. The Superintendent and/or designee shall commence the process of transitioning to by-trustee area elections, in full compliance with all appropriate procedures and policies provided in law;
3. The Superintendent, or designee, is hereby directed to prepare additional Board resolutions and documents, as needed, to meet all applicable legal requirements in a timely manner to develop proposed trustee area boundaries, and to seek approval from the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges pursuant to Education Code section 72036;
4. The Superintendent, or designee, shall consult with legal counsel and demographer to take all steps necessary to implement and give effect to this resolution; and
5. The foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on the 14th day of September 2021, at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Dated: September 14, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent/President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk