



Welcome to the Santa Paula Unified School District Trustee Areas Public Forum

The Santa Paula Unified School District ("District") Board of Trustees is in the process of changing from at-large elections to by-trustee area elections for members of the Governing Board. If approved, the change will go into effect starting with the November 2020 elections for the Board of Trustees. Currently, the District's five member Board of Trustees is elected by voters across the entire District. Starting with the elections in November 2020, members of the Board of Trustees would only be elected by voters who reside in the areas that Board members are elected from.

As part of this consideration, the District also initiated the creation of election areas that would be roughly equal in population and in compliance with State law, the Federal Voting Rights Act and the United States Constitution. Using data from the 2010 Census, the District's consultant, Cooperative Strategies, has created two conceptual trustee area scenarios that divide the District into five new voting areas. The Board of Trustees is now seeking public input on those scenarios.

Requirements for Trustee Areas

Section 1002 of the California Education Code requires that voting districts be "nearly equal in population." Case law has established that a variance of up to 10 percent in total population from the largest voting area to the smallest voting area is allowable. Additional information on criteria utilized in the drawing of trustee areas is available at the next station.

Community Open House Process

This open house is divided into four stations where participants can review information, ask questions, gain additional information about the process and the proposed scenarios, and provide feedback and suggestions.

Station 1: Sign-in and introduction to the community input meeting process.

Station 2: Information on the boundaries of the District, the total population and demographics of the District, and information on the timeline for considering the creation of trustee areas.

Station 3: Information on the three conceptual trustee area scenarios, including the boundary lines and population data.

Station 4: Provide written comments and suggestions on proposed trustee areas. All comments received will be summarized and provided to the Board of Trustees.

To find updates on the process, please go to <http://www.santapaulaunified.org>