

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution to Initiate a Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System Commencing  
with the 2022 Board of Education Election and  
Statement of Intent to Seek a Waiver of the Election Requirement  
from the State Board of Education**

**WHEREAS**, Board of Education (“Board”) Members of the Torrance Unified School District (“District”) are currently elected using an “at-large” election system (i.e., election system in which registered voters of the entire jurisdiction elect candidates to the Board of Education);

**WHEREAS**, the District received a letter from a law firm asserting that the at-large board member electoral system violates the California Voting Rights Act (Elections Code §§ 14025 *et seq.*) (“CVRA”), and threatening litigation if the District declines to voluntarily change to a district-based election system for electing board members;

**WHEREAS**, California Education Code sections 5019(a) and (c)(1) and 5030 authorize the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”), upon application of a school district’s Board of Education, to change the method of election of Board of Education members in a school district under its jurisdiction;

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of “by-trustee area” elections will not affect the terms of any sitting Board members;

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of this Resolution to comply with the “safe harbor” provisions of Elections Code section 10010(e), including Elections Code section 10010(e)(3)(A) and the related limit on reimbursement for attorney’s fees and costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board, cognizant of its need for fiscal responsibility, desires to implement this change in the manner of electing Board members in the most cost effective and efficient manner.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Education of Torrance Unified School District does hereby resolve, order and determine as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board hereby determines that the trustee area boundary lines shall be developed based on federal Census data to provide for “by-trustee areas” elections commencing in 2022.
3. By this resolution, and pursuant to Education Code sections 5019(a) and 5030, the Board directs District staff to transmit this resolution to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization to apply to have the County Committee adopt a change in the method of electing members of the board from “at-large” elections [Education Code section 5030(a)] to “by-trustee area” elections [Education Code section 5030(b)] commencing with the 2022 Board elections.
4. Before submitting a final proposal to the County Committee for a trustee area plan using the federal Census data, multiple public hearings shall be scheduled to obtain public input on the draft proposals prepared.

5. The Board shall apply to the County Committee for establishment of trustee areas pursuant to Education Code section 5019(a) in a timely manner to have the 2022 elections for the Board conducted within the new trustee areas.

6. The Superintendent, or his designee, shall send a copy of this resolution to the County Committee for action in accordance with law.

7. The Superintendent, or his designee, is hereby directed to prepare an additional Board resolution, and implement the applicable legal requirements in a timely manner, to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education of the election requirement imposed by Education Code section 5020.

8. The Superintendent, or his designee, shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal issues necessary to give effect to this resolution.

9. The foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

  
Terry Ragins, Board President

(STATE OF CALIFORNIA) (SS. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, James Han, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District of Los Angeles County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said board at the regularly scheduled and conducted meeting held at the time and place stated, which resolution is on file and of record in the Office of the Superintendent.

  
James Han, Clerk