



Sonoma County Junior College District



Redistricting Considerations

January 12, 2016 Study Session

Activity Milestones

- **On March 25, 2015 - The Board held a Special Study Session on Redistricting.**
- **On September 24, 2015 – A meeting with students and District legal counsel was held in President Chong’s Office.**
- **On October 22, 2015 – Dr. Chong appointed Vice President Roberts as District-lead.**
- **On November 13, 2015 – CCLC contacted regarding provision of demographer services.**
- **It should be noted that ...even before the March Study Session, and since, the District has been fielding innumerable questions and performing research on the issues that have been raised.**

(Many thanks go out to School and College Legal Services for their invaluable help!)

March Presentation

- **On March 25, 2015 - The Board held a Special Study Session on Redistricting, at which ...**

- **Schools & College Legal Services made two presentations entitled:**
 - “Background History and Overview of District’s Trustee Areas”

 - “Overview of Rules and Guidelines Related to Possible Trustee Area Changes”

- **Redistricting Partners – Community College League of California made a presentation entitled:**
 - “Redistricting Overview, Santa Rosa Junior College”

Redistricting – Salient Points

- **Current trustee arrangement of 7 Trustees from 5 Trustee Areas: ... was approved by the voters in April 1965.**
 - 1 Trustee from Analy Union High School District (HSD) Area
 - 1 Trustee from Cloverdale/Geyserville/Healdsburg HSD's Areas
 - 1 Trustee from Petaluma Joint Union HSD Area
 - 3 Trustees from City of Santa Rosa HSD Area
 - 1 Trustee from Sonoma Valley Unified SD Area
- **The District's current election process *is* consistent with State Laws, including Education Code sections 5030, 72022 and 72023.**
- **EC sections 5030 and 72023 *expressly* allow for more than 1 trustee to be elected from one area.**

Redistricting – Salient Points

- **But, the most important fact ...**
- **... per “Election Code” definition is the following:**
- **The District's elections are not conducted using an “at large” voting system.**
- ***(This fact is important as it limits some of the District’s options, and obligations, in considering redistricting)***

Redistricting – Salient Points

- The reconfiguration of the District’s Trustee boundaries can currently occur under two methods:
 1. **Every 10 years**, during the “census window,” **the Board of Trustees** can adjust the boundaries so that the number of governing board members elected from any trustee area represents the (roughly) same proportion of the population as each of the other areas. **(This happened in 2012)**
 2. The **County Committee on School District Organization** can establish trustee areas, rearrange the boundaries of trustee areas, and change the methods by which trustees are elected.

Redistricting – Salient Points

- One reconfiguration methodology ***believed*** ... ***NOT AVAILABLE*** ...to the District is the “**AB 684 Election Waiver for the California Community College System**” allowed under Education Code 72036.
- This exception would allow a district’s governing board to change ...
 - **from an “at-large” election system** ...
 - to a one trustee per trustee area election system (aka district-based elections) ...
 - ***without*** the involvement of the County Committee.
- Despite Election Code Law, ***however***, there are some, who believe ...under the California Voting Rights Act ... that such a waiver ***might be available*** to SRJC

“At-Large” versus “District-based” Elections

Election Code 14026.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "At-large method of election" means *any of the following methods* of electing members to the governing body of a political subdivision:
- (1) One in which the voters of the entire jurisdiction elect the members to the governing body.
 - (2) One in which the candidates are required to reside within given areas of the jurisdiction and the voters of the entire jurisdiction elect the members to the governing body.
 - (3) One which combines at-large elections with district-based elections.
- (b) "District-based elections" means a method of electing members to the governing body of a political subdivision in which the candidate must reside within an election district *that is a divisible part of the political subdivision* and is elected only by voters residing within that election district.
- (c) "Political subdivision" means a geographic area of representation created for the provision of government services, *including*, but not limited to, a general law city, general law county, charter city, charter county, charter city and county, a school district, *community college district*, or other district organized pursuant to state law.

Advantages of “the EC 72036 Waiver”

- The biggest advantage of being able to redistrict under the EC 702306 Waiver is that the District’s Board of Trustees would be able to rearrange its trustee areas ... **on its own** ...
 - ***without the delay*** of having to involve the County Commission
 - ***without the delay*** of having to get voter approval of the new trustee areas
 - ***without the costs*** associated with the Commission, **and** an election.
- It would be up to the Community College System’s Board of Governors to determine whether the EC 72036 Waiver could apply ... or not ...to SRJC.
- And, it has been suggested that the District ***try*** this route before seeking trustee area rearrangement via the County Commission.

Redistricting via the County Commission

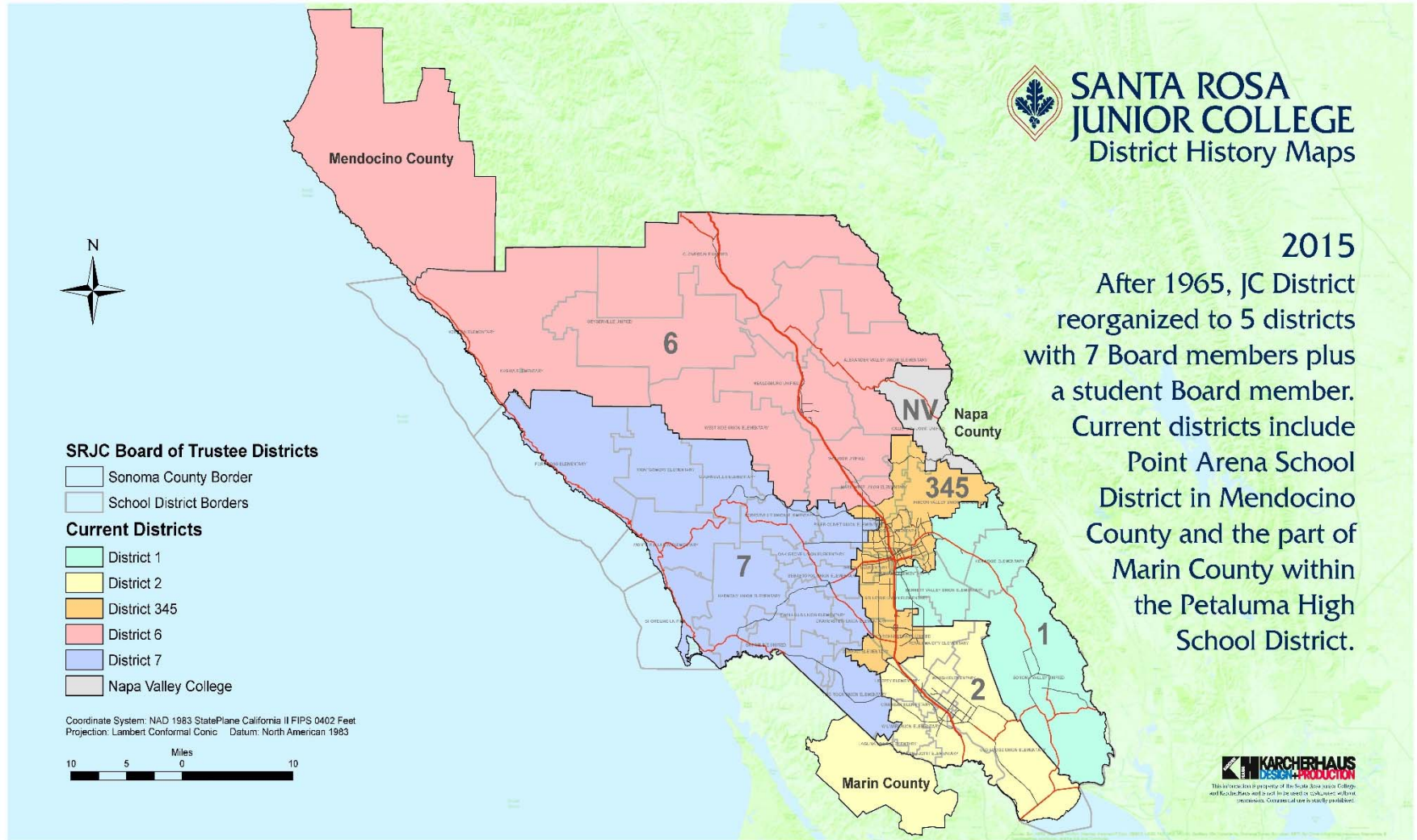
There are **three ways** for the issue of Trustee Area Adjustments to be brought before the County Committee:

1. The **County Committee** may take up the issue on its own initiative.
2. The **SRJC Board of Trustees** could adopt a resolution calling for the County Committee to consider a change.
3. A **citizen petition** is gathered asking that the County Committee take up the issue (*The petition would have to be signed by certain percentage of qualified voters, or a certain number of voters, whichever is less ... the number depends on the number of total qualified voters*)

Redistricting via the County Commission

- Any resolution requesting the establishment and/or rearrangement of trustee area boundaries would have to be presented to the **County Committees of all affected trustee areas.**
- So, such a resolution ...(were SRJC to pursue complete redistricting) ...might also have to be presented to the County Committees of **Marin and Mendocino** as well.

Redistricting via the County Commission



Redistricting via the County Commission

- Generally, in presenting a redistricting resolution to a County Committee, a proposal, or plan, would be submitted.
- This proposal would generally done in the form of one (or more) plans, or maps.
- It would be the job of a demographer to help the District determine/draw such a map (or maps).

Steps in Considering Redistricting

- Should the District wish to pursue redistricting...
- And ... if the idea is to pursue changing the District to having 7 trustee areas with 7 trustees ...
- And ... if the waiver EC 72036 waiver process is not available ...
- The District will need to present a resolution to the County Committee(s) on School District Organization requesting the establishment or rearrangement of Trustee areas ...
- The first thing the District needs to do ... (in any event) ...is perform the necessary demographics studies ... and, develop some proposed redistricting proposals/plans/maps.

Steps in Considering Redistricting

- The District has hired a firm to perform the necessary demographic studies ... and develop some proposed redistricting maps ... (And the demographer will speak to the process after this presentation)
- Upon completion of the demographer's work, the District needs to review the work, and agree upon a plan, or plans to pursue.
- If taking a resolution to the County Committee ... Once the Committee has received a proposal, it is required to call and conduct at least one public hearing.
- It should be noted that there is no legal time frame specified for conducting such a hearing.
- Following the hearing, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the proposal and act to establish new boundaries.

Steps in Considering Redistricting

- If the County Committee approves a proposal for change ...
- That approval constitutes an order of election.
- The proposed change in trustee areas is then placed on the next ballot.

Steps in Considering Redistricting

- If the proposed change in trustee areas is approved by the voters
- ... the plan, map, and legal description describing the new trustee area boundaries is submitted to the county superintendent of schools and the registrar of voters, recorder or county clerk.
- All existing members will retain their seat for the remainder of their full term.
- The election of new trustees, in the newly developed trustee areas, will take place when the associated former area-trustee's term has ended.

Steps in Considering Redistricting

- All costs associated with the process; the County Committee's costs and the cost of elections are the responsibility of the District ...if ...
- **the District** initiates the process via a Board Resolution.
- Costs could run anywhere from \$350,000 to \$750,000 **just for the election**, depending on when the election would be held.
- And ... even after the process has been completed, the District may need to modify the trustee area boundaries (as early as 2021) due to the 2020 census.



Questions?



... And, now, let's hear from the demographer !