
MEASURE G

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF ELECTING SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES FOR THE TWIN RIVERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For the election of one member of the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District residing in each trustee area elected by the registered voters in that trustee area.

YES _____

NO _____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY COUNSEL

The Twin Rivers Unified School District is currently governed by a seven-person board whose members reside in one of seven trustee areas but are elected by the registered voters of the entire school district. If Measure G is approved, the system for electing members of the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District would change from this system to one whereby one governing board member residing in each trustee area would be elected by registered voters residing in that trustee area.

Passage of Measure G requires approval by a majority of the voters voting thereon.

Prepared by: Krista Whitman, Supervising Deputy, Sacramento County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

Shall the voters who reside in the trustee area elect the area trustees for the Twin Rivers Unified School District? (Yes) (No)

The voters created the Twin Rivers Unified School District in 2007, by merging four separate school districts, covering at least 7 different communities into one school district. Seven trustee areas were created by Measure B, which required School Board members to live in a designated trustee area. However, voters throughout the district voted for each area trustee. In the 2007 election of trustees this "hybrid" balloting system caused at least one candidate who won the majority of the votes in her trustee area to lose because of the number of votes cast for her opponent from other parts of the district.

Area public schools are a valuable part of every local community. Individuals serving on school boards will be more effective when they are selected from a majority of the community they represent. A group of voters who do not reside in the designated trustee area should not be able to decide who represents an area where they do not live. Yet, this result is exactly what the current voting systems permits.

This proposal was presented by a cross section of district residents, neighbors and community organizations to the Sacramento County of Education Board and to the Twin Rivers Unified School District Board. The proposal received unanimous support from both Boards. Election of school board members by the majority of voters in each trustee area is consistent with the principle of one-person one vote. The current system undermines this important principal.

Help expand community support for our local public schools by supporting election of School Board members by the majority of voters from their designated trustee area. Good government requires people to be involved in the electoral process.

Gregory M. Larkins, North Highlands Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors
Kari Scow, Parent, Rio Linda
Craig De Luz, Robla School Board Member
Alisha Valdez, TRUSD Parent / CSEA PAC
Nancy S. Dexter, Foothill Community Member

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

Far from being "unanimously supported" by the Board of Education and the Twin Rivers School District Board of Trustees as misstated in the Argument, BOTH Boards declined to vote on the measure. Instead, they left it to the voters of the District to determine the best way to elect Trustees.

The entire argument in favor of Measure G focuses on what is best for political candidates, NOT for students and their families. A family which may have students in more than one Trustee Area wants the Trustee of each area to be accountable to all parents, and responsible for the

education and future of all District children, not just those in the Trustee's immediate area.

Imagine the frustration of having your child attending school in Area 3, but your home is in Area 2 – and you have no say in what the Trustee of Area 3 decides! Measure G is intended to benefit political interests – not the interests of our children, our schools, or our families.

Vote "No" on Measure G.

Lisbeth Gray, Chair, Old Foothill Farms Comm. Task Force

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

In 2007, the State Board of Education, the Sacramento County Office of Education, and area voters acted to create a new, unified district. They understood the importance of taking petty politics out of schools and approved "from-area" elections for the new district.

The "from-area" approach incorporates the strengths of two voting methods ("by-area" and "at-large") in which one trustee from each of the 7 areas is elected by all voters. This ensures a representative from each area, but requires representatives to look out for all students and schools.

Trustee areas are small and cut our community into 7 artificially-created pieces. Families often have children that attend schools in 2-3 different trustee areas. Changing the voting method would mean that parents could only vote for the representative in the small area where their house is located.

Under a "by-area" approach, a family would no longer have any input on the trustees that govern the other areas where their children attend schools. Far from empowering voters, changing the method of election will take representation away from families and

encourage selfish decision making that isn't good for our children, schools, or communities.

Our current "from-area" voting ensures a representative from each neighborhood that is accountable to all families and taxpayers, not just the ones in their area. "From-area" voting has resulted in a board that is culturally diverse and one that has been able to make the difficult but responsible decisions that have resulted in higher graduation rates and a positive school budget.

There is no student-focused reason to consider rearranging the method of election. Now is not the time to take away voters' rights to elect all 7 trustees. We urge you to vote NO on Measure G. See www.NoMeasureG.com

Elizabeth Mitchell, Board Member: Former Rio Linda Union School District

Bob Bastian, Board Vice Pres. Twin River USD

Keith Weber, North Sacramento County Community Leader and Alumni of five Twin Rivers Schools

Lisbeth Gray, Chair, Old Foothill Farm Comm. Task Force

Roberta Cokley, Board member for North Highlands Jr. Scots

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

The authors of the Argument Against Measure G miss the mark in several important aspects. First and most importantly they ignore the history of both the district and the distinct communities within the boundaries of the Twin Rivers Unified School District. For example, residents of Rio Linda have different traditions and needs than residents of Del Paso Heights.

That is why the ballot measure creating our new unified school district created trustee areas for school board members. The drafters of Measure B, the school unification proposal approved by voters wanted to assure that each community would be represented in our new district.

No one could imagine that the majority of voters in one trustee area would see the candidate they selected defeated because votes cast for the opponent elsewhere in the district. Yet, this is precisely what occurred in the first district election using this "hybrid" system. The local neighbor and community organizations who presented this

proposal don't think the voters in Del Paso Heights should decide who represents Rio Linda on our school board nor should the converse apply.

Election of school board members by the majority of voters in each trustee area is consistent with the principal of one person one vote. The current system undermines this important principal.

Area public schools are a valuable part of every local community. Individuals serving on public school boards will be more effective when they are selected by a majority of the community they represent.

Gregory M. Larkins, North Highlands Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors

Kari Scow, Parent, Rio Linda

Craig De Luz, Robla School Board Member

Alisha Valdez, TRUSD Parent / CSEA PAC

Nancy Dexter, Community Member Foothill

Resolution No. CC-12-03

RESOLUTION ORDERING AN ELECTION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TWIN RIVERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF ELECTING THE DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS AND REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION WITH THE ELECTION FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5, 2012

RESOLVED by the Members of the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization, County of Sacramento, State of California:

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization, the matter of adopting an alternative method of electing members of the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District, specifically that one governing board member residing in each of seven trustee areas would be elected by the registered voters who reside in each particular trustee area, shall be placed before the electorate of the District; and

WHEREAS, each member of the seven-member governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District is currently elected by the registered voters of the entire school district, but reside in one of seven specified trustee areas; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2011, a citizens' petition proposing the adoption of an alternative method of electing the members of the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District was received by the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2012, the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters confirmed that the petition contained a sufficient number of valid signatures; and

WHEREAS, on February 16 and 22, 2012 the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization held public hearings in the Twin Rivers Unified School District, as prescribed by Education Code section 5019, on the citizens' petition to adopt an alternative method of election for the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearings, the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization approved the citizens' proposal to adopt an alternative method of election for the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization hereby approves the proposal to adopt an alternative method of electing governing board members

in the Twin Rivers Unified School District whereby one governing board member residing in each trustee area would be elected by the registered voters who reside in that trustee area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization hereby transmits this resolution to the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools, who shall order an election, and that the proposal be presented to the electors of the Twin Rivers Unified School District not later than the next succeeding election for the members of the governing board, which is set for June 5, 2012.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on February 22, 2012, at a duly noticed meeting of the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization by the following vote:

AYES: 7

NOES: Ø

ABSENT: Ø

Brian Cooley, Board President

ATTEST:

David W. Gordon
Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools and Secretary to the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization

Resolution No. 2012-B

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER

March 1, 2012

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization, pursuant to Education Code sections 5019 et seq., adopted Resolution No. CC-12-03 ordering that an election be held for the electors of the Twin Rivers Unified School District to propose an alternative method of election for the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District and requesting consolidation with the election for governing board members to be held on June 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools received a copy of said resolution on February 22, 2012; and

**MEASURE G RESOLUTION
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**MEASURE G RESOLUTION
CONTINUED**

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools is required to order an election which shall be conducted on June 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools is required to adopt and deliver to the Registrar of Voters in Sacramento and Placer Counties a resolution designating the election particulars.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS HEREBY RESOLVES that:

1. An election to propose an alternative method of electing the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District and requesting consolidation with the election for governing board members shall be held on June 5, 2012.
2. Said election shall be held for the electors within the boundaries of the Twin Rivers Unified School District, in the Counties of Sacramento and Placer, California.

3. In accordance with Education Code section 5020 and applicable Elections Code requirements, the ballots for said election shall state:

"For the election of one member of the governing board of the Twin Rivers Unified School District residing in each trustee area elected by the registered voters in that trustee area--Yes---No."

4. The returns of said election shall be canvassed by the Registrars of Voters of Sacramento and Placer Counties and results certified to the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools.
5. Said election shall be consolidated with the election for governing board members to be held in the same territory on said date.

This resolution is hereby adopted by David W. Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools on March 1, 2012 in the County of Sacramento, State of California.

David W. Gordon
Sacramento County
Superintendent of Schools