



## WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1108 Bissell Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94801-3135

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

#### **1. What is the deadline to apply for the Commission?**

Applications to serve on the Commission are due November 30, 2020.

#### **2. What is a by-trustee area election?**

In a by-trustee area election, the District is divided into five trustee areas; voters in each trustee area will elect one trustee, who must live within that trustee area.

#### **3. What is an Independent Redistricting Commission?**

School boards and other local agencies are legally authorized to appoint a “redistricting commission” to assist in the preparation and adoption of by-trustee area maps. There are several types of redistricting commissions: purely advisory commissions, who prepare a by-trustee area map for the board’s consideration and possible approval; hybrid commissions that prepare two maps, one of which must be selected and adopted by the board; and independent commissions. Independent redistricting commissions are “empowered to adopt the district boundaries of a legislative body,” meaning that they are ultimately responsible for the approval of the map, rather than the school board. (Elections Code sections 23000 – 23004 ([http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?division=21.&chapter=9.&lawCode=ELEC](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=21.&chapter=9.&lawCode=ELEC).) The District has committed to the use of an Independent Redistricting Commission.

#### **4. Who will be responsible for approving a map for the 2022 Board election?**

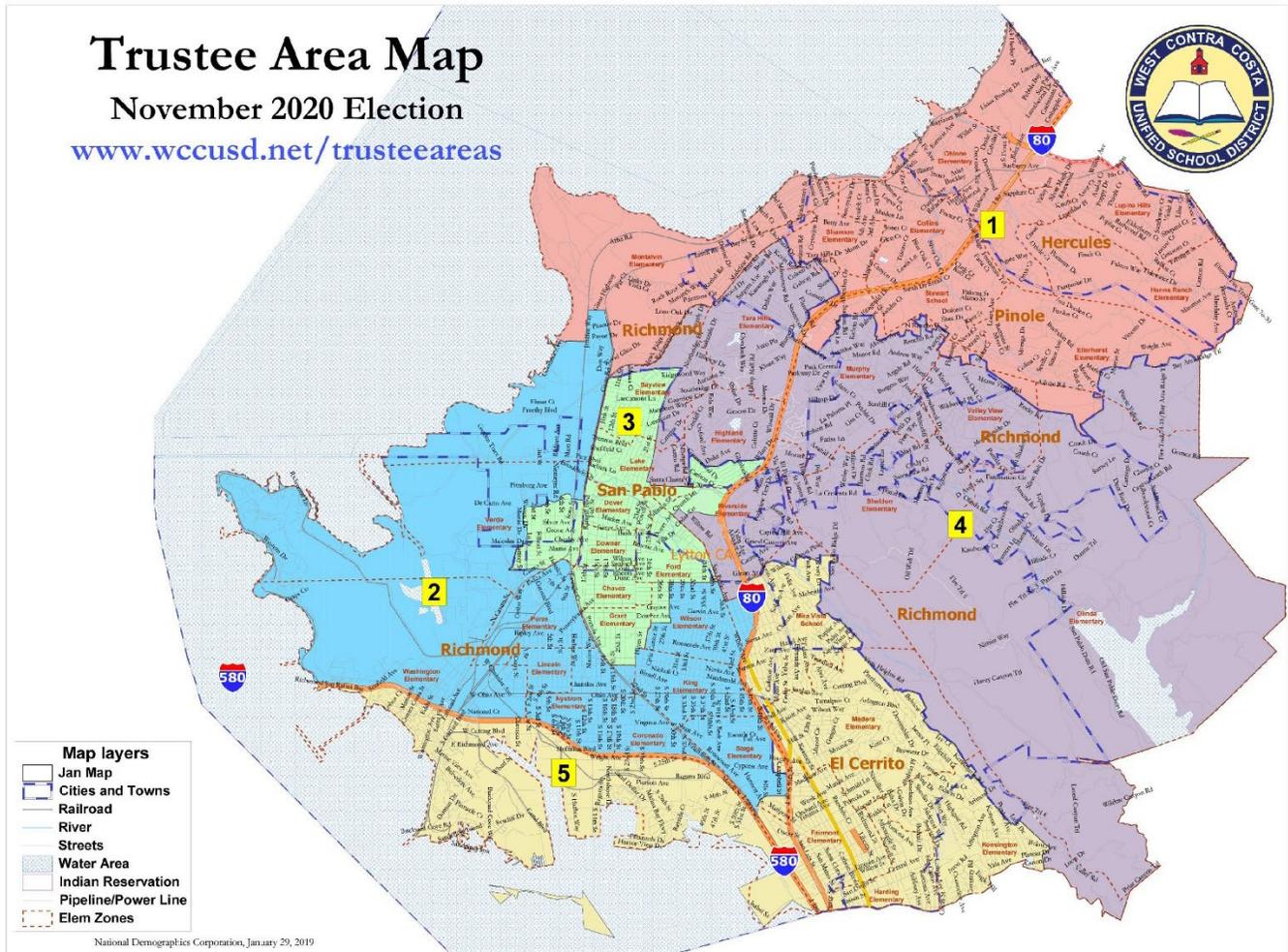
The Commission will have final responsibility for approval of a by-trustee area map. (Elections Code section 23000(d).) While a school district typically needs the approval of the Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization when initially converting to by-trustee area elections, no such requirement exists for later iterations of by-trustee area maps.

#### **5. Why does the existing trustee area map need to be reevaluated in 2021-22?**

Under State law, once a school district has moved to by-trustee area elections, its map must be reconsidered every 10 years, following the release of the data from the decennial United States census. (Education Code §5109.5(a).) The 2020 census data will be released in the latter half of 2021. Although the District just moved to by-trustee area elections for the 2020 election, the release of the census data requires that the map be revisited, in part to ensure that each of the District’s five trustee areas remain balanced regarding total population based on the new census information. Once a map has been approved by the Commission for the 2022 board election, it will remain in place until the next United States census is completed in 2030-31.

6. How can I tell which trustee area I live in?

Below is the current trustee area map:



An interactive version of the map can be found here:

<https://ndcresearch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=fd53001ddd3741f996e3542e28b845d0>. If you are not certain where your residence falls within this map, please contact Robert Jordan, Communications Director, (510) 231-1129 or [redistrictingcommission@wccusd.net](mailto:redistrictingcommission@wccusd.net).

**7. *Where can I find the eligibility criteria for serving on the Independent Redistrict Commission?***

The eligibility criteria is included generally in the Commission application form, and can also be found in the relevant portion of the Stipulation and Judgment from the CVRA litigation:

<https://www.wccusd.net/cms/lib/CA01001466/Centricity/Domain/16/Joint%20Ex%20Parte%20Application%20for%20Entry%20of%20Judgment.pdf>. Additional requirements can be

found in Elections Code sections 23000- 23003

([http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?division=21.&chapter=9.&lawCode=ELEC](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=21.&chapter=9.&lawCode=ELEC)).

**8. *How will Commission members be selected?***

Commission applicants will be screened under the applicable criteria by District staff. All applicants who meet the applicable criteria will have their applications forwarded to a Selection Judge. The Selection Judge is responsible for choosing the 7 Commission members. Judge Thelton Henderson, the former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, has graciously offered to volunteer his time to make the selections based on the applications.

**9. *What is the Role of the Selection Judge***

In addition to selecting members of the Commission, the Selection Judge will also remain available to assist the Commission and the District if there are any issues regarding the implementation of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

**10. *What is the timeline for the Commission's meetings and duties?***

The approximate time line can be found here: [www.wccusd.net/redistrictingcommission](http://www.wccusd.net/redistrictingcommission). The Commission's meetings will primarily take place in the latter half of 2021 and the first half of 2022. All meetings will be open to the public and appropriately noticed under the Ralph M. Brown Act. (Government Code sections 54950, *et seq.*)

**11. *How long will Commission members serve? What is the time commitment?***

The bulk of the Commission's meetings will be held after the 2020 United States census data becomes available, which will be in approximately July of 2021. There will be at least one initial meeting within 60 days after appointment of the Commission (appointments are expected to be made by May 2021, at the latest). Commission members will serve until the new by-trustee area map for the 2022 election is adopted. The statutory deadline to adopt that map is early July 2022, but it is anticipated that the Commission will complete its plan by approximately February 2022, in order to allow ample time for the Registrar of Voters to receive and implement the new map, and for candidates for school board to know the boundaries of the

map early on. During the period of approximately July 2021 through February 2022, the Commission will likely meet, at minimum, eight times, and as many as eleven times or more, to develop and adopt the by-trustee area map.

***12. Where will Commission meetings be held?***

The Commission will meet at various locations throughout the District. At least one public hearing must be held in each current trustee area in the District.

***13. When will Commission meetings be held?***

With the exception of the first Commission meeting, the Commission will have the authority to determine the date and time that each meeting will occur.

***14. What professional support will be available to the Commission?***

The District will provide a qualified demographer to help guide the Commission's process and to prepare maps. Additionally, District staff will provide clerical support to the Commission, and will be prepared to have any questions answered for the Commission, including any legal questions.

***15. Do members of the Commission receive compensation?***

Service on the Commission will be voluntary, and not compensated.