

Santa Ynez CSD Transition to Division-Based Elections

Since the district was established in 1971, the Board of Directors has been elected at-large to staggered four-year terms of service. This means that voters of the district's entire jurisdiction elect the board members which can reside anywhere within the district. For small districts like SYCSD, this allows for a larger pool of candidates. However, in recent years, there has been more pressure to transition to district-based elections in order to stay in compliance with the California Voting Rights Act.

Past Meetings

Pre-Map Hearings: (Location: District Board Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA)

- June 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Pre-Map Hearing #1
- July 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Pre-Map Hearing #2

On June 21 and July 19, 2023, the District Board held “pre-map” public hearings to receive input from the community on the district-based map creation process and criteria to be used when drawing division boundaries prior to the drawing of draft maps, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(1).

Upcoming Meetings

Map Consideration Hearings: (Location: District Board Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA)

- September 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Map Consideration Hearing #1
- October 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Map Consideration Hearing #2

Based on the initial input received and demographic analysis of the district, draft division area boundary maps have been prepared for the public's consideration and are available to view on the district's website (see link below) or in person at the district's office. Two public hearings will be held at 5:30pm on September 20th and October 18th to receive input from the community on the content of the maps, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(2). Additional public notice will be given after these hearings detailing when the District Board plans to adopt the preferred map.

Board meetings are held at the District Board Room and are conducted through a hybrid combination of in-person and/or virtual attendance. Anyone who wishes to participate in the meeting via remote access should consult the meeting agenda for the call-in telephone number or zoom link. The agenda and related meeting materials will be posted on the district's website www.sycsd.com at least 72 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting.

Review Draft Maps

Two draft map options are currently available for review. Additional map options may be developed based on feedback received. Please let us know your thoughts!

- [Draft division area boundary maps](#) (PDF)

Simple Map Review Tool

- ESRI's "[ArcGIS Online](#)" – similar to Google Maps in ease of use
 - Click “content” tab in upper left corner to toggle layers on/off
- Used to review, analyze and compare draft map options

Submit Input

The district wants to hear from you!

- Submit a comment or letter to the District
- Participate in one of the public meetings
- Call, email, snail mail, or drop by!

For more information, contact:

- Loch Dreizler, General Manager, at (805) 688-3008 or by email loch@sycsd.com.

Online Map



District-Based Elections

Unlike at-large elections where a candidate can live anywhere within the district, district-based elections require that candidates represent specific areas of the district. This involves splitting the district into five separate areas so that one Board Member can be elected to represent each division. You, as a voter, will only vote for the candidates who reside in the electoral division in which you live.

California Voting Rights Act

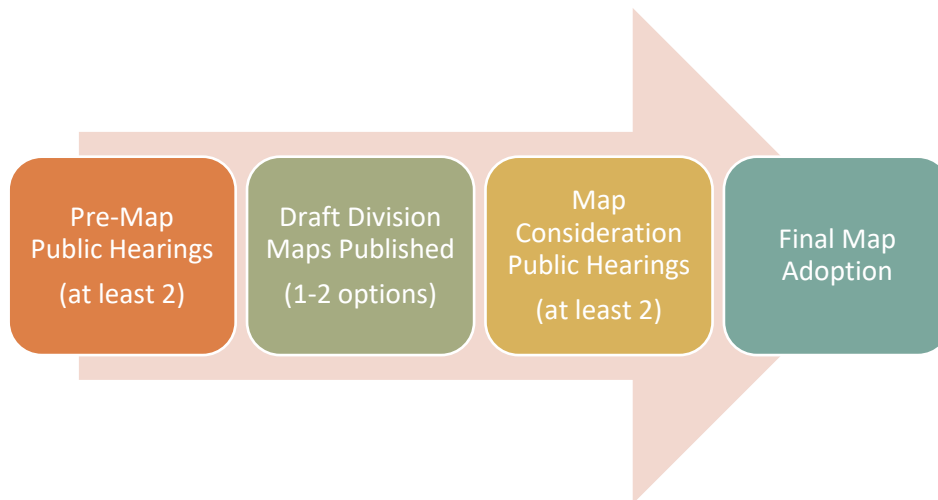
The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was signed into law in 2002. The Act makes fundamental changes to minority voting rights law in California and was intended to protect minorities from racially polarized voting practices. These are practices that do not give a protected group sufficient opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. The CVRA provides more opportunities for protected groups to challenge cities, districts, school boards, and other governing bodies on their election practices. For this reason, many agencies are transitioning to division-based elections in order to avoid costly legal fees associated with an official challenge.

Districting

The SYCSD Board of Directors adopted Resolution 22-06 on March 18th, 2022, stating the district’s intent to transition to division-based elections. This process, also known as districting, will be completed in accordance with Elections Code Section 10010 and 22000. When drawing divisions for the district, several factors will be considered including:

- Topography
- Geography
- Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory
- Communities of interest

The districting process includes two pre-map public hearings to receive input from the community on the district-based map creation process and criteria to be used when drawing division boundaries prior to the drawing of draft maps, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(1). This information will be used to create draft division maps for review by the public and the Board of Directors. Two additional public hearings are then held to receive input from the community on the content of the maps, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(2).



Key Terms:

At-large election - Voters of the entire jurisdiction elect members of the governing body.

By-division election – As called by-district election; candidates reside within election divisions that are divisible parts of the political subdivision and are elected only by voters that reside within the corresponding division.

Candidate of choice - The choice of candidates or other electoral choices that are preferred by voters in a protected class.

Community of interest – A population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single division for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Common interests can include: cultural, religious, and language characteristics; income levels; health and environmental conditions; occupations and lifestyles; educational backgrounds; other common interests that would benefit from representation.

Protected class - A class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as this is referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act.

Racial polarization/ racially polarized voting - Voting in which there is a difference in the choice of candidates or other electoral choices that are preferred by voters in a protected class, and in the choice of candidates and electoral choices that are preferred by voters in the rest of the electorate.

Useful Links:

[California Election Code](#)

[California Voting Rights Act](#)

[Santa Ynez CSD Resolution 22-06](#)