

IV. Community Outreach



acalanes Union High School District

1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549

www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

925-280-3900 ♦ Fax 925-280-3903

Transition to a New System of Electing Board of Trustees Members

July 21, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

I am writing to update you and to encourage your participation in an important process led by the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board.

On July 9, 2025, the District initiated the process of transitioning the method by which the Board of Trustees are elected. Under the current “at-large” system, all registered voters in the District’s boundaries can vote for all candidates for the Board, regardless of where, within the District, each candidate and voter resides. Under the new proposed system, candidates will be elected by “trustee areas.” This means only voters within a given trustee area can vote for candidates who reside within that same area.

Transitioning to this new system will require the Board to hold public hearings on proposed trustee area boundaries (or maps) prior to asking the County Committee on School District Organization to approve the change. If the Committee approves the change, “by-trustee area” voting would be held starting with the 2026 Board of Trustees election, on *Tuesday, November 3, 2026*.

The District will be utilizing the services of a professional demographer to prepare draft trustee voting area plans for community and Board review. The demographer will work with the District’s legal counsel to ensure that all draft trustee area map options are in compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (“CVRA”) and other districting requirements. The process of establishing the trustee areas will involve using the demographic data from the 2020 Census, in addition to other, accepted population and demographic information. **Please note, that this process has no impact on student and school attendance boundaries.**

Before draft map options can be prepared and presented to the community, the law requires the District to hold two public hearings to solicit comments and feedback regarding potential trustee areas. Thereafter, the District will be hosting a series of public hearings regarding the map options, once created. **The dates/times and locations of the upcoming public hearings are shown below.** You are invited to attend as many hearings as you would like. If you cannot attend a hearing or meeting and wish to review and/or comment regarding potential trustee areas as well as on the proposed “trustee area” maps, once created, please do not hesitate to submit your comments and feedback to the email address below. Following the initial public hearings, the proposed maps will be created and posted on the District’s web site.

You may email any comments or questions to trusteeareafeedback@auhsdschools.org. You may also comment by telephone at 925- 942-9649.

We look forward to your participation in this important process in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

John Nickerson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Live Feedback Opportunities (Prior to Creation of Map Options)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place*</u>	<u>Time**</u>
Wednesday, August 6, 2025 <i>Public Hearing</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 <i>Public Hearing</i> <i>Special Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:05 p.m.

Live Feedback Opportunities (After Creation of Map Options)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place*</u>	<u>Time**</u>
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 <i>Public Hearing</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:45 p.m.
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 <i>Public Hearing</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:20 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 <i>Public Hearing and Board Decision</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:20 p.m.

NOTE: The Governing Board vote on trustee area boundaries will immediately follow the third map Public Hearing on October 15, 2025.

*These Governing Board meetings and public hearings will be video streamed and recorded. The live streaming and subsequent video recordings will be posted on [Board Meeting Video Broadcast page of the District Website](#).

**The public hearing shall begin at the fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda. The Governing Board may first conclude any item being discussed or acted upon at the time posted, including any associated public comment.



Educating all
students to excel
& contribute in a
global society

Acalanes Union High School District

Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System

On Wednesday, July 9, 2025, the Governing Board considered and adopted Resolution 25-26-01 initiating a transition to a “By-Trustee Area” election system commencing with the 2026 Governing Board Election.

Under the new, proposed system, candidates will be elected by trustee “areas.” This means that only voters who reside within a given trustee area can vote for candidates who reside within that same area.

What this means...



Will this change school attendance boundaries?

No. This will have no impact on where a student attends school in the AUHSD.



How will this impact me?

District voters will have the opportunity to vote for candidates who live in their trustee area every four years and not for the candidates from the other trustee areas.



Why do this now?

The District was challenged that its at-large elections violate the California Voters Rights Act.

You are invited to participate in the three-stage process:

- Public input to set the criteria for making trustee area maps
- Public review and input regarding the draft maps
- Governing Board decision

Pre-Map Public Hearing #1

- Provide input on Trustee area map development
- **Wednesday, August 6, 7:05 pm**
- AUHSD Community Room & [livestreamed](#)

Pre-Map Public Hearing #2

- Provide input on Trustee area map development
- **Wednesday, August 20, 7:05 pm**
- AUHSD Community Room & [livestreamed](#)

Map Review Public Hearing #1

- Provide input on draft maps
- **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 7:45 pm**
- AUHSD Community Room & [livestreamed](#)

Map Review Public Hearing #2

- Provide input on draft and revised maps
- **Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 7:20 pm**
- AUHSD Community Room & [livestreamed](#)

Map Review Public Hearing #3 & Governing Board Decision

- Provide input on draft and revised maps
- Governing Board decision
- **Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 7:20 pm**
- AUHSD Community Room & [livestreamed](#)

To learn more...



925-942-9649



www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/page/4266



Acalanes

Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

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Governing Board

- Governing Board Overview
- Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System
- Governing Board and District Goals
- AUHSD Governance Handbook 2024-2025
- Board Policies
- Board Meeting Dates
- Board Meeting Agendas
- Board Meeting Video Broadcast
- Awareness and Heritage Month Resolutions

[Home](#) > [District](#) > [Governing Board](#) > Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System

Adopted Trustee Area Map

On October 15, 2025, the Governing Board approved [Resolution 25-26-20](#) to adopt the trustee area plan and demographic information described as "Map Scenario 2" as the trustee area map for the District's transition to a by-trustee area election system commencing with the 2026 Governing Board election. The District will hold by-trustee area elections in areas 1, 3, and 5 at its November 2026 election. The District will hold by-trustee area elections in areas 2 and 4 at its November 2028 election. The resolution and plan are contingent upon the approval by the County Committee on School District Organization.



INTERACTIVE MAP

[This link will take viewers to an interactive map tool.](#) The tool allows users to search for addresses, zoom in, click on multiple maps at the same time to see the differences, and overlay high school boundaries, elementary school boundaries, and city/census-designated places (CDPs) boundaries.

Please submit your comments, feedback or any questions to trusteeareafeedback@auhdschools.org. You may also comment by telephone at (925) 942-9649. All map preference feedback will be relayed to the Board prior to its discussion and adoption of a map option.

Live Feedback Opportunities (Prior to Creation of Map Options)

Date	Place*	Time**
Wednesday, August 6, 2025 Public Hearing - COMPLETE Regular Governing Board Meeting	Acalanes Union High School District Office Community Room	7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 Public Hearing - COMPLETE Special Governing Board Meeting	Acalanes Union High School District Office Community Room	7:05 p.m.

Live Feedback Opportunities (After Creation of Map Options)

Date	Place*	Time**
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 Public	Acalanes Union High School District	7:45 p.m.

INTERACTIVE MAP

[This link will take viewers to an interactive map tool.](#) The tool allows users to search for addresses, zoom in, click on multiple maps at the same time to see the differences, and overlay high school boundaries, elementary school boundaries, and city/census-designated places (CDPs) boundaries.

October 15 Draft Map Public Hearing #3 and Map Adoption

[October 15 Draft Map Public Hearing #3 Notification](#)

[October 15 Presentation](#)

[October 15 Draft Map Public Hearing #3 and Map Adoption Video](#)

September 17 Draft Map Public Hearing #2

[September 17 Draft Map Public Hearing #2 Notification](#)

[September 17 Presentation](#)

[September 17 Draft Map Public Hearing #2 Video](#)

[Commitment to Whole District Representation - Resolution 25-26-19](#)

New Draft Trustee Area Maps - Options 2A, 2B and 5 Map Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 Remain Active Maps

Draft Trustee Area Map Options 1 - 5, 2A & 2B will be considered by the Governing Board. Page two overlays our high school attendance boundaries; page three overlays our partner elementary school attendance boundaries; and page four overlays cities and census-designated places (CDPs). Page five provides demographic data for the draft map.

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2A](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2B](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 5](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 1](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 3](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 4](#)

 [AUHSD Election Sequencing - Draft Map Options \(10-07-25\)](#)

Live Feedback Opportunities (After Creation of Map Options)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place*</i>	<i>Time**</i>
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 <i>Public Hearing - COMPLETE</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District Office Community Room	7:45 p.m.
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Wednesday, October 15, 2025 <i>Public Hearing and Board Decision - COMPLETE</i> <i>Regular Governing Board Meeting</i>	Acalanes Union High School District Office Community Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	7:20 p.m.

NOTE: The Governing Board vote on trustee area boundaries will immediately follow the third map Public Hearing on October 15, 2025.

*These Governing Board meetings and public hearings will be video streamed and recorded. The livestreaming and subsequent video recordings will be posted on [Board Meeting Video Broadcast page of the District Website](#).

**The public hearing shall begin at the fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda. The Governing Board may first

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 3](#)

 [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 4](#)

 [AUHSD Election Sequencing - Draft Map Options \(10-07-25 update\)](#)

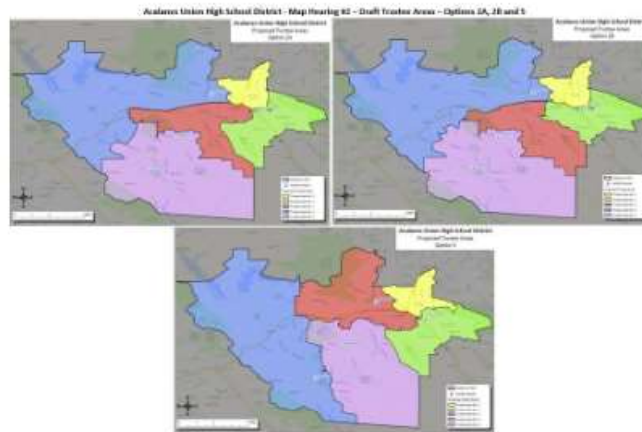
Election sequencing indicates when each trustee area would have an election for each of the draft map options.

recorded. The livestreaming and subsequent video recordings will be posted on [Board Meeting Video Broadcast page of the District Website](#).

**The public hearing shall begin at the fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda. The Governing Board may first conclude any item being discussed or acted upon at the time posted, including any associated public comment.

September 10 - Informational In Person and Zoom Mtg [Presentation](#)

[Community Message - September 9, 2025 - Additional Map Options and Upcoming Meetings](#)

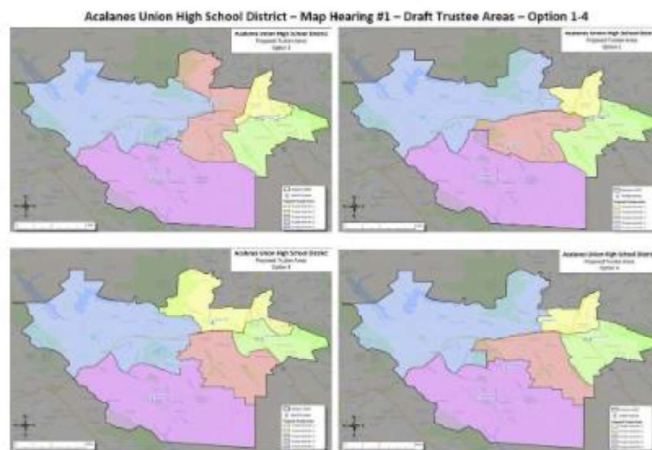


September 3 - Draft Map Public Hearing #1

[September 3 - Map Public Hearing #1 Notification](#)

[September 3 Presentation](#)

[September 3 Map Public Hearing #1 Video](#)



[Community Message - August 27, 2025 - MAP
OPTIONS FOR TRANSITION FROM "AT-LARGE" TO "BY-
TRUSTEE AREA" ELECTIONS](#)

[August 20 Public Hearing #2 Notification](#)

[August 20 Presentation](#)

[August 20 Video](#)

[August 6 Public Hearing #1 Notification](#)

[August 6 Presentation](#)

[August 6 Video](#)

[REQUIRED MAJORITY-MINORITY ANALYSIS - August 4](#)

[INFORMATIONAL FLYER](#)

[July 21 Message to AUHSD Community Informing of the Transition](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

BACKGROUND

At the Wednesday, July 9, 2025, Special Meeting of the Governing Board, the Board considered and adopted [Resolution 25-26-01](#) initiating a transition to a "By-Trustee Area" election system commencing with the 2026 Governing Board Election. Please see the timeline below for opportunities for public input. (["Demand letter" from Shenkman & Hughes](#))

Please note, that this process has no impact on student and school attendance boundaries.

In 2002, the California State Legislature enacted the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA"), which prohibits the use of at-large elections of governing board members for a school district if it *"impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election...."* (Elections Code § 14027, emphasis added.) Under the CVRA, the only election system that provides an accepted "safe harbor" from a potential CVRA claim is a "by-trustee area" election system. Under a "by-trustee area" election system, a school district is divided into separate trustee areas and one governing board member is elected by the registered voters in that particular trustee area, rather than the community at-large. Acalanes Union High School District ("District") currently employs an "at-large" election system for the purposes of electing Governing Board members.

Adopting this resolution begins a 90-day window for the District to complete the required steps for a transition to a "by-trustee area" election system (Elec. Code § 10010(e)(3)(B)). Pre-Map Public Hearings must occur over a period of no more than 30 days (Elec. Code § 10010(a)(1)). Map Public Hearings must occur over a period of no more than 45 days (Elec. Code § 10010(a)(2)).

The District will be utilizing the services of a professional demographer to prepare draft trustee voting area plans for community and Board review. The demographer will work with the District's legal counsel to ensure that all draft trustee area map options comply with the CVRA and other districting requirements. The process of establishing the trustee areas will involve using the demographic data from the 2020 Census, in addition to other, accepted population and demographic information.

This website will include updated information as the Governing Board goes through this transition and decision-making process, including draft trustee area maps for consideration.

Address 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette, Ca 94549

Phone 925-280-3900

Fax 925-280-3903

[Academic Calendar](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Title IX & Non Discrimination](#) | [Site Map](#)



Updated August 4, 2025

- **What is the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)?**

In 2002, the California legislature enacted the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA"), which prohibits the use of at-large elections of governing board members for a school district if it "impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election...." (Elections Code § 14027, emphasis added.) Under the CVRA, the only election system that provides an accepted "safe harbor" from a potential CVRA claim is a "by-trustee area" election system. Under a "by-trustee area" election system, a school district is divided into separate trustee areas and one governing board member is elected by the registered voters in that particular trustee area, rather than the community at-large. Acalanes Union High School District currently employs an "at-large" election system for the purposes of electing Governing Board members.

Numerous school districts and other public agencies throughout the state, [now including AUHSD](#), have been targeted by private law firms for alleged violations of the CVRA. It is believed that the best course of action for the District is to initiate its transition to "by-trustee" area elections for future Governing Board elections. The Legislature recently passed SB 442 which amends the Education Code to make it easier for school districts to transition to by-trustee area election systems. Pursuant to SB 442, effective January 1, 2022, school districts and community college districts may transition to by-trustee area elections upon approval by the county committee, without the need to seek voter approval or to obtain a waiver of the same from the State Board of Education.

Should an individual challenge a public entity's election system and the court finds against that jurisdiction, the jurisdiction must change its election system and pay the plaintiff's attorneys, experts, and other expenses. The only safe harbor from a CVRA claim is to implement a by-trustee area election system.

- **Will this process change school attendance boundaries?**

No. This process and the formation of trustee-areas will have no impact on school attendance boundaries. This will be a new system for electing Governing Board members and has **NO IMPACT** on where a student attends school. School attendance boundaries are NOT being changed as part of this process.

- **What is the difference between "At Large" Elections and "By-Trustee Area" Elections?**

Currently, the District has an at-large election system, where voters of the entire District are able to vote for all members/candidates of the Board, regardless of where those candidates live in the District. Switching to by-trustee elections will require the District to create five geographic trustee areas of equivalent populations within the District, each assigned to one seat on the Board. Voters within each trustee area will vote only for candidates who reside in that same trustee area.

- **How will this transition impact me?**

If approved, District voters will have the opportunity to vote for a candidate for the Governing Board who lives in their trustee area on a four-year cycle. Voters will not be able to vote for candidates from trustee areas in which they do not reside. However, each member of the Governing Board owes a fiduciary duty to the entire District, not just the area from which they reside and from where they are elected. Additionally, each member of the Governing Board will serve for the interests of all students of the District.

- **Why consider the transition to a by-trustee area election system now?**

Like hundreds of public agencies across the state, the Acalanes Union High School District is starting the process to change how voters elect Board of Education Members. On May 30, 2025, the District received a letter demanding that the Board elections transition from the current at-large election method to a By-Trustee Area Election method in order to comply with the CVRA. Upon adoption of a resolution of intent to transition, the law provides 90 days to conduct public hearings prior to adopting an ordinance ordering the transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System (Elections Code Section 10010). On July 9, 2025, the AUHSD Governing Board adopted a resolution declaring its intent to transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System.

- **What data must be considered in ensuring population equality among the trustee areas?**

The population of each Trustee area must be nearly equal, based on total population. (See *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) 377 U.S. 533.) That being said, the law permits local districts to have up to a 10% variance between the largest and smallest districts. (Id.)

The 2020 Census was the last time every person was accurately counted in the District. Updated total population figures since then are merely estimates. Therefore, in order to comply with federal and state population equality requirements, the District's demographer is required to use the most recent Census data (2020).

The District should also follow the spirit of the CVRA and citizen voting age population ("CVAP") data, amongst other factors and considerations, to determine whether it is possible to preserve or increase the voting power of protected classes. CVAP data is more current than the Census data, and is based on a 5 year rolling average established by the American Community Survey conducted by the Census bureau. Although the CVAP data is useful in attempting to increase the voting power of protected classes within the District, ultimately, the District must rely on the most recent, available census data to ensure population equality, which would be 2020 Census data in this case.

- **How and when will the final map be chosen?**

The Board will consider a range of factors when it chooses to select a map of five geographic areas as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system. These factors include (but are not limited to) equal population, communities of interest,

compactness, contiguity of the districts, visible/natural boundaries, voter input, and continuity in office. After a series of public hearings, the Board plans to vote to adopt one of the trustee area map options on October 15, 2025. The [Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization](#) will then subsequently conduct an additional public hearing before making a final decision whether to approve the District's adopted map and transition to by-trustee area elections.

- **What if there is no candidate in one of the trustee areas?**

If 83 days before a scheduled election, no candidate has been nominated for a particular trustee area and an election will not be held, a vacancy occurs, and the Education Code authorizes the Board to appoint a qualified individual who lives in the vacant trustee area to the Board. Such an appointment must occur at a Board meeting prior to the day fixed for the election and the appointee will be seated at the District's annual organizational meeting as if elected in the District election. The appointee must be qualified to hold office and reside within the specific vacant trustee area. Unlike with most typical vacancies, an individual appointed to the Board because of a failure to elect/lack of candidates will serve "as if elected," i.e., for the full four-year term.

- **What if multiple board members end up within the same boundaries of a current trustee area?**

All Governing Board members may serve out their full terms of office. Specifically, the Education Code contemplated transitions from at-large to by-trustee area elections at Education Code § 5021(a) which states, in pertinent part, that "[i]f a proposal for the establishment [of trustee area elections] is approved . . . any affected incumbent board member shall serve out his or her term of office..."

The Education Code requires that the terms of board members be staggered so that, as nearly as practicable, one half of the members shall be elected in each year in which the Board's elections are regularly held. Here, given the District's five-member Board, there are three (3) trustees whose terms will be completed in 2026 and two (2) that will complete their terms in 2028. As such, after the Board transitions to by-trustee areas, there will be an election to fill three (3) of the newly-created trustee areas in 2026 and an election to fill two (2) areas in 2028. In each proposed map, there will be a proposed sequencing schedule which will indicate which seats/areas will be up for election in 2026 and 2028.

- **Where can I learn more?**

You may email any comments or questions to trusteeareafeedback@auhsdschools.org. You may also comment by telephone at 925- 942-9649.



acalanes Union High School District

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Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

As the District continues to move through the process of transitioning to “by-Trustee-area” elections under the legal requirements of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), we have reached a critical point. The District is releasing four map options to the community for study and input. All four of the map options being considered meet the legal requirements outlined in CVRA.

The District is providing three in-person opportunities to the community to review and provide feedback over the next month before the Governing Board votes on October 15, 2025, for a map that will be put into effect for the Board elections in November 2026.

The release of map options comes at the end of the “Pre-Map” period wherein the District engaged the community with two public hearings to solicit input before drawing map options.

Each map option for consideration:

1. Meets the equal population requirement (that each trustee area has equal population, 23,808, with up to a 10% variance);
2. Increases the voting power of the largest protected classes in the District (Hispanic/Latino & Asian) where possible by Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in at least one Trustee Area each based on up-to-date CVAP statistics compared to District-wide averages;
3. Complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act and related districting laws and requirements;
4. Respects communities of interest as much as possible;
5. Is compact and contiguous as much as possible; and
6. Follows man-made and natural geographic features as much as possible.

The maps are posted on the District’s website for viewing on the ["Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System"](#) page. High school and elementary school attendance area overlays are viewable/available on each map option. Copies of the maps are also available for review at the District Office.

Please note, each map was randomly assigned a number option as a name only (i.e. Option 1, Option 2, Option 3, and Option 4). Each map option has 5 balanced Trustee Areas with Area 1 shaded in Yellow, Area 2 shaded in Green, Area 3 shaded in Red, Area 4 shaded in Blue, and Area 5 shaded in Purple.

Upcoming Meeting and Hearing Schedule

September 3, 2025 – 1st Public Hearing regarding draft Map Options at 7:45 p.m. during the Regular Governing Board meeting at the District Office Community Room, located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

September 17, 2025 – 2nd Public Hearing regarding draft Map Options at 7:20 p.m. during the

regular Governing Board meeting at District Office Community Room, located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

October 15, 2025 – *3rd Public Hearing* regarding the final Map Options at 7:20 p.m. during the regular Governing Board meeting at the District Office Community Room, located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

Additionally, the District will host an informational meeting for questions and answers on **September 10, 2025**, from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. at the Del Valle Education Center, Rm. 401, located at 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. The meeting will be a hybrid Zoom meeting allowing for community members to view and ask questions remotely. The Zoom link will be posted on the "[Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System](#)" page prior to the meeting.

Acalanes Union High School District community is invited to attend as many meetings and public hearings as you would like. If you cannot attend and/or wish to review and/or comment regarding the proposed map options under consideration, please submit your comments, feedback or any questions to trusteeareafeedback@auhsdschools.org. You may also comment by telephone at (925) 942-9649. All map preference feedback will be relayed to the Board prior to its discussion and adoption of a map option.

We look forward to your continued participation in this important process.

Sincerely,



John Nickerson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

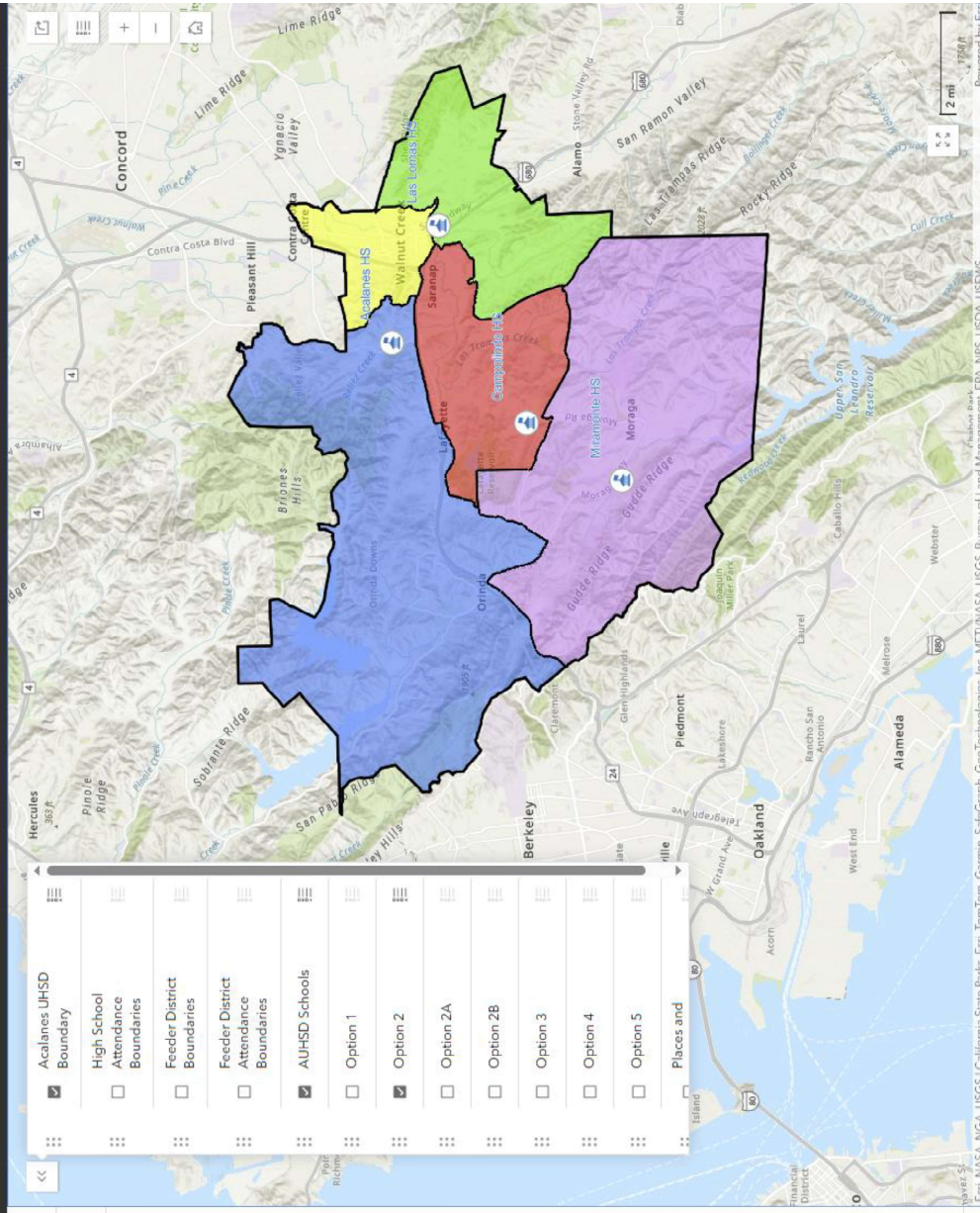
Q Find address or place

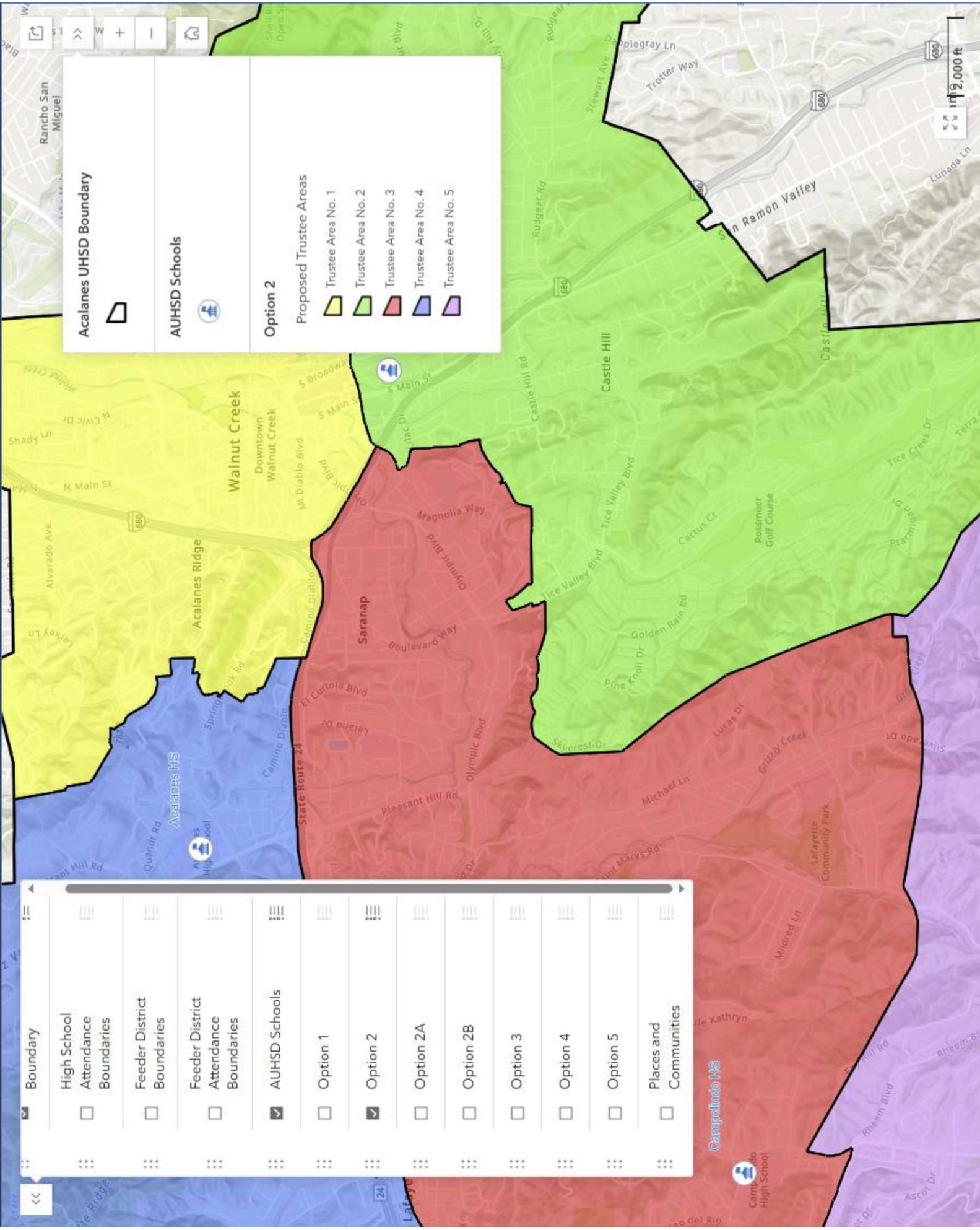
You may determine your trustee area assignments in each option by:

- Clicking the search box and typing in an address
- Clicking within the map

Please click the layers list in the top left corner of the map to display all selectable options. The current view shows the proposed Trustee Area Option 1.

Clear the search bar using the "X" to reset the map or view another address.





Acalanes UHSD Boundary



AUHS Schools



Option 2

Proposed Trustee Areas

Trustee Area No. 1

Trustee Area No. 2

Trustee Area No. 3

Trustee Area No. 4

Trustee Area No. 5



Boundary



High School



Attendance



Boundaries



Feeder District



Boundaries



Feeder District



Attendance



Boundaries



AUHS Schools



Option 1



Option 2



Option 2A



Option 2B



Option 3



Option 4



Option 5

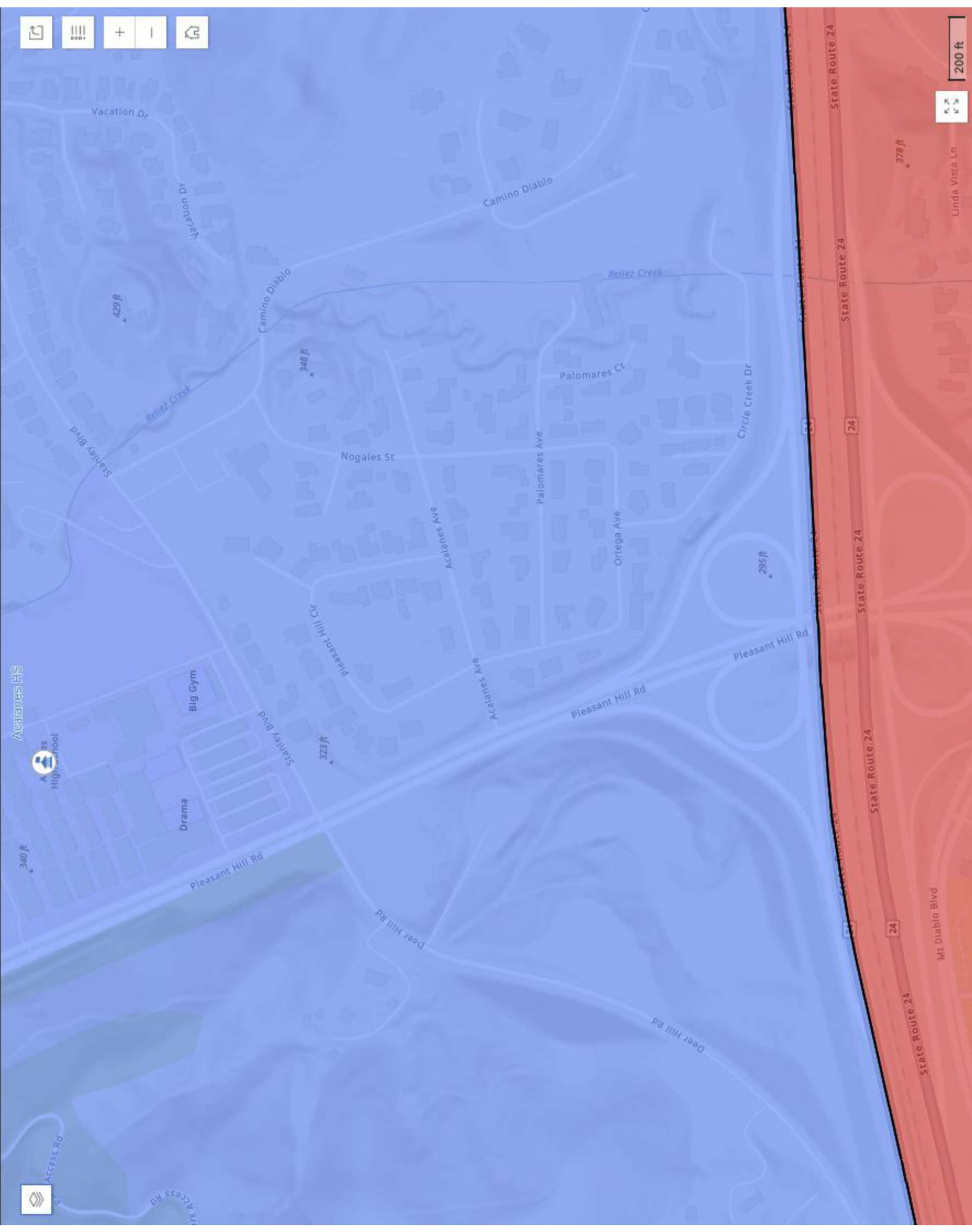


Places and



Communities





200 ft

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

As the District continues the process of transitioning to “by-trustee-area” elections under the legal requirements of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), we have reached another key milestone. The District is releasing three additional draft map options—[2A](#), [2B](#), and [5](#)—for community review and input.

With these new drafts, there are now seven options under consideration, all of which meet the requirements outlined in the CVRA and related districting laws. These maps will be considered at the next Board public hearing. Additional maps can still be created based on public input and Board direction and considered at the final public hearing. [The updated maps and additional information are available on this website.](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Public Hearings

- **September 10, 2025** – *Informational Meeting* for community questions and answers, from **5:30–6:15 p.m.** at the Del Valle Education Center, Room 401 (1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA 94595). The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom and participants may submit questions. [Zoom Link.](#)
- **September 17, 2025** – *Second Public Hearing* regarding draft map options, at **7:20 p.m.** during the regular Governing Board meeting, held in the District Office Community Room (1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549).
- **October 15, 2025** – *Third Public Hearing* on the final map options, at **7:20 p.m.** during the regular Governing Board meeting, also at the District Office Community Room. At this meeting, the Governing Board will select the final trustee-area map for implementation in the November 2026 Board elections.

Community Input

The District invites all community members to attend as many meetings and hearings as possible. If you cannot attend but wish to share comments, questions, or feedback about the maps under consideration, please email trusteeareafeedback@auhsdschools.org or call (925) 942-9649. All feedback will be shared with the Governing Board prior to its discussion.

We look forward to your continued participation in this important process.

Sincerely,

John Nickerson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Acalanes Union High School District

Transition from At-Large to By-Trustee Area Elections

Information, Questions & Answers

September 10, 2025

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

Slides modified from F3 presentation at AUHSD Public Hearing, September 3, 2025



Why Transition Now?

The District received a “demand letter” alleging that the District’s at-large election method violates the California Voting Rights Act and threatening litigation.

(Note: AUHSD currently has 5 Governing Board members who are elected through an at-large election method)

What is the California Voting Rights Act (“CVRA”)?

- Took effect January 1, 2003
- Prohibits the use of “at-large” elections when such an election system:

“impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election....”

(Elections Code §14027)



Protected Class

What is a “protected class?”

A class of voters who are members of a **race, color, or language minority group**, as this class is referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.).

(Elections Code §14026(d).)



What is a “By-Trustee Area” Election System?

- Only safe harbor from a CVRA claim
- School district is divided into trustee areas - 5 trustee areas for AUHSD
- A governing board member is elected from each trustee area
- Board members are elected **by only the registered voters in the particular trustee area** in which the governing board member resides

Keep in mind...



- With a total population of 119,039, **each AUHSD Trustee Area will include approximately 23,808 people.** *(Based on 2020 Census)*
- The difference between the largest and smallest trustee areas can be no more than 10%.
- Census Blocks are the smallest geographic unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau to collect and publish data.
- Census Blocks generally are not to be “split” with a Trustee Area boundary line – since we would lose the accuracy of the population balancing count.’
- Census Blocks vary significantly in shape, size, and population totals – approximately 1,100 Census blocks in the District.

What is the process to transition...



- The process for transition is set forth in California Elections Code § 10010
- The District has 90 days to complete the process
- Two public hearings must take place prior to the development of draft trustee area maps (Aug 6 & 20)
- Three public hearings must take place after draft maps are published (Sept 3, 17 & Oct 15)
- Draft maps and revised draft maps must be published 7 days prior to public hearings
- The Board's decision regarding maps and the election sequence (Oct 15) shall give consideration to the purposes of the CVRA

Keep in mind...



- **Does not** change overall District boundaries
- **Does not** change school attendance boundaries
- **Does not** change how the District is governed:
 - The Board “believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district.” (BB 9005)
 - Each Board member, regardless of the trustee area in which they reside, still owes fiduciary duty to entire District
 - Still one District with common goals and challenges!

Providing Input to the Board...



- Attend Public Hearings (9/17 and 10/15) and provide input
- Provide written input: Please submit your comments, feedback or any questions to trusteeareafeedback@auhdschools.org.
- You may also comment by telephone at (925) 942-9649.

All map preference feedback will be relayed to the Board prior to its discussion and adoption of a map option. Input will be considered public record.

AUHS Demographics...

2020 Census Data

Population	Total Population		Age 18 +	
	Total	%	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	10,870	9.1%	7,814	8.2%
White	79,149	66.5%	66,087	69.4%
Black/ African American	1,872	1.6%	1,549	1.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	116	0.1%	100	0.1%
Asian	18,211	15.3%	14,665	15.4%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	169	0.1%	148	0.2%
Other	740	0.6%	542	0.6%
Two or More Races	7,912	6.6%	4,313	4.5%
Total Population	119,039	100%	95,218	100%

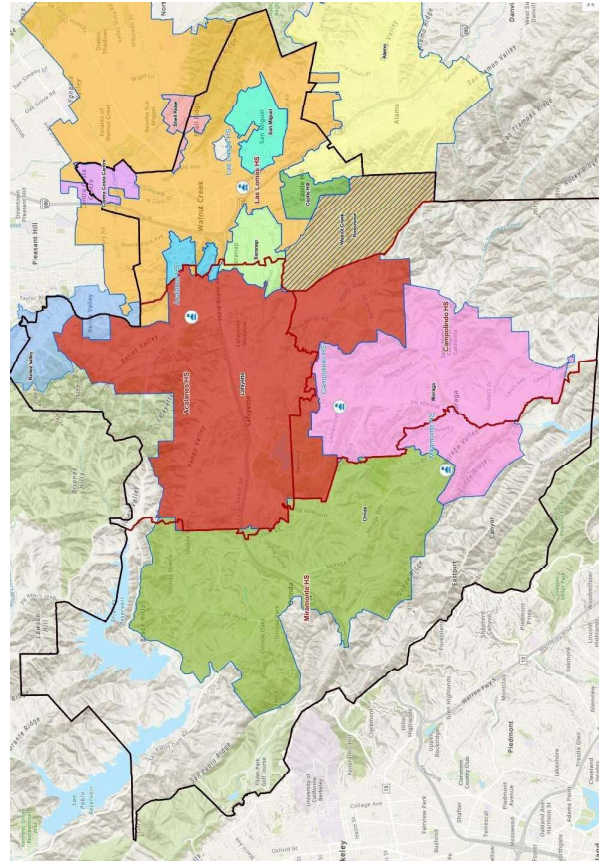
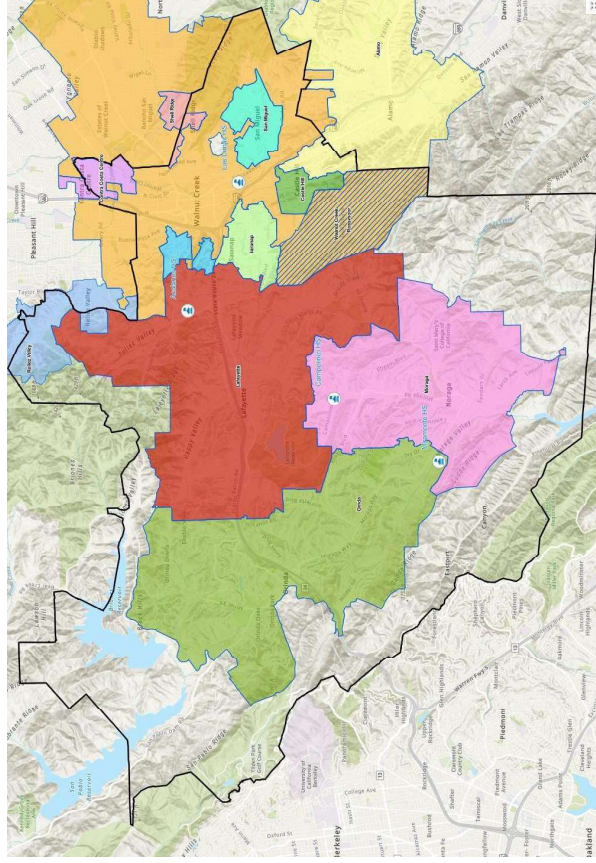
2019-2023 CVAP Estimates

Population	2019-2023 ⁽¹⁾	
	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	7,258	8.3%
White	64,173	73.3%
Black/ African American	1,545	1.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	146	0.2%
Asian	11,155	12.7%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	75	0.1%
Two or More Races	3,219	3.7%
Total Population	87,571	100%

⁽¹⁾ CVAP data taken from the California Statewide Database which provides the 2019-2023 American Community Survey CVAP estimates with DOI by 2020 Census blocks and adjustment to reallocate incarcerated persons to their last known residential address.



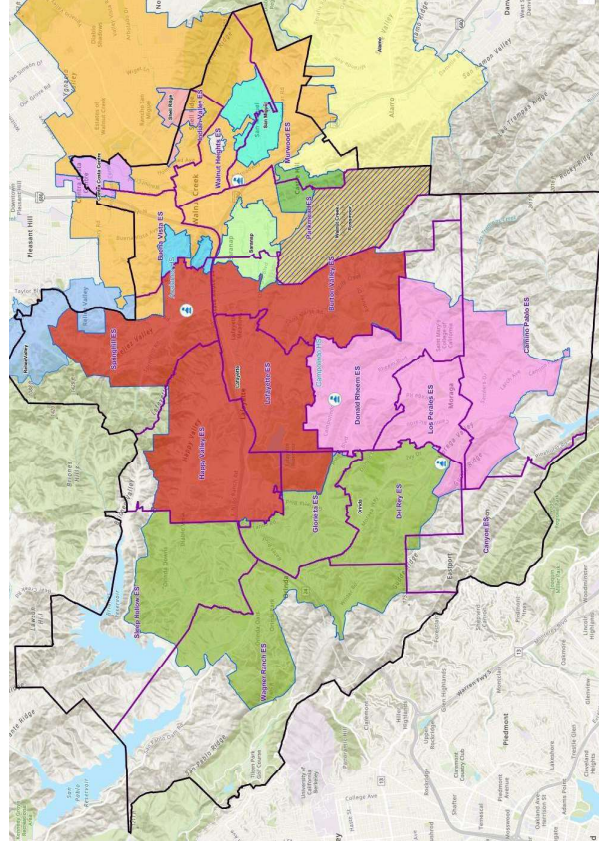
Cities, CDPs



Cities, CDPs, & HS Areas



Cities, CDPs, & ES Areas





Criteria for Consideration

- Comply with the **U.S. Constitution**.
- Comply with the **California Constitution**.
- Population Balance:
 - Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Comply with the **federal Voting Rights Act**:
 - Determine whether it is possible to create an election district or districts in which a minority group is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district.



Criteria for Consideration

AB 764 / Elections Code § 21130

- Order of priority:
 - Contiguous
 - Local Neighborhoods/Communities of Interest
 - City/Census designated places
 - Natural/artificial boundaries
 - Geographical compactness
- Other Criteria for Consideration:
 - Other local considerations
 - May not adopt boundaries for the purpose of favoring/discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate or political party.



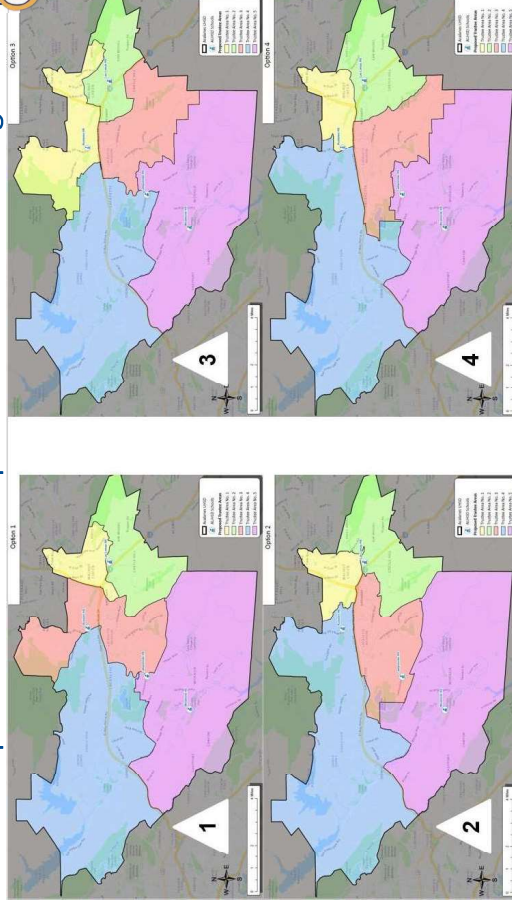
Draft Maps

- Seven draft trustee area maps are currently under consideration
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 1](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2A](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 2B](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 3](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 4](#)
 - [DRAFT Trustee Area Map - Option 5](#)
- Each map option contains overlays high school attendance area, elementary school attendance areas, and cities/CDPs. Each option also presents demographic data for each trustee area.
- Election sequencing will also be determined by the Board on October 15

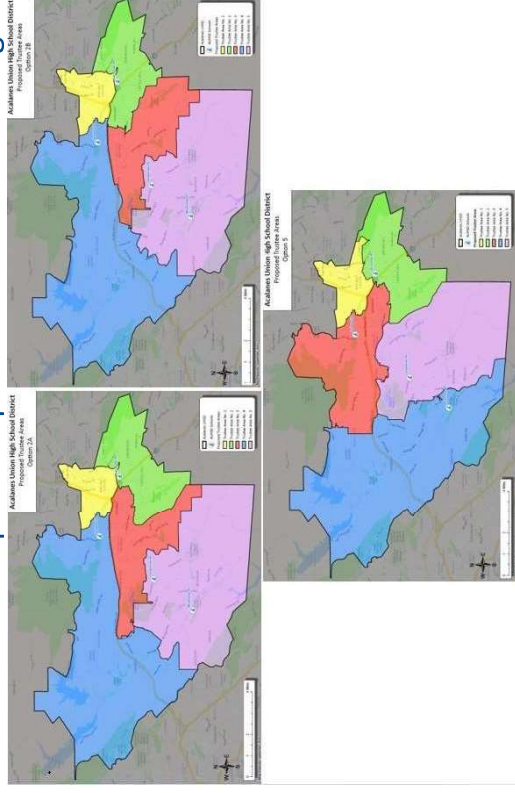
[Election Sequencing Proposal](#)



Draft Maps Presented for September 3 Public Hearing



Additional Draft Maps for September 17 Public Hearing



For More Information...

- [Interactive mapping tool](#)
- [AUHSD Transition to By-Trustee Area Election Method Informational Webpage](#)
- Ask questions through trusteeareafeedback@auhdschools.org
- Reach out to a current Board member or the Superintendent

Transition from At-Large to By Trustee Area Elections



Questions



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system to receive community comments and public testimony concerning the composition of potential trustee voting areas associated with the District's transition to a by-trustee area election system in advance of the preparation of draft trustee voting area plans by the District's demographer.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing will be held before the Governing Board of the District as follows:

Date: **August 6, 2025**

Place: **District Office Community Room**
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549

Time: **7:05 p.m.**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system to receive community comments and public testimony concerning the composition of potential trustee voting areas associated with the District's transition to a by-trustee area election system in advance of the preparation of draft trustee voting area plans by the District's demographer.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing will be held before the Governing Board of the District as follows:

Date: **August 20, 2025**

Place: **District Office Community Room**
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549

Time: **7:05 p.m.**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing will be held before the Governing Board of the District as follows:

Date: September 3, 2025

Place: District Office Community Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Time: 7:45 p.m.

The public hearing is in accordance with California Elections Code section 10010.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing will be held before the Governing Board of the District as follows:

Date: September 17, 2025

Place: District Office Community Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Time: 7:20 p.m.

The public hearing is in accordance with California Elections Code section 10010.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District as part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans. Following the public hearing, the Board will vote to select a Trustee Area Map.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing will be held before the Governing Board of the District as follows:

Date: **October 15, 2025**

Place: **District Office Community Room**
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549

Time: **7:20 p.m.**

The public hearing is in accordance with California Elections Code section 10010.

Contra Costa Times

(925) 943-8019

2000178

ACALANES UNION USD
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1212 PLEASANT HILL RD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-2623

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

FILE NO. Potential Trustee Voting Areas

Contra Costa Times

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the Legal Advertising Clerk of the printer and publisher of the Contra Costa Times, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, State of California.

I declare that the Contra Costa Times is a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California as determined by court decree dated October 22, 1934, Case Number 19764. Said decree states that the Contra Costa Times is adjudged to be a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa and State of California. Said order has not been revoked.

I declare that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

07/31/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Walnut Creek, California.
On this 31th day of July, 2025.



Signature

Legal No.

0006910656

NOTICE As part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system by the Acalanes Union High School District, the District's Governing Board will hold two public hearings to receive community comments and public testimony concerning the composition of potential trustee voting areas associated with the District's transition to a by-trustee area election system in advance of the preparation of draft trustee voting area plans by the District's demographer. The public hearings will be held during a Governing Board meeting at 7:05 p.m. on August 6, 2025 and August 20, 2025. The meetings will be held in the Community Room at the Acalanes Union High School District Office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. They can also be viewed through the AUHSD website using this link: <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/3668>. The meetings can be viewed online live, but members of the public wishing to address the Governing Board must do so in person at the District Office. Members of the public may also give input to the Board by email at schoolboard@auhdschools.org.

CCT 6910656; July 31, 2025

2000178

ACALANES UNION USD
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1212 PLEASANT HILL RD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-2623

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

FILE NO. Draft Trustee Voting Area Plans

Contra Costa Times

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the Legal Advertising Clerk of the printer and publisher of the Contra Costa Times, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, State of California.

I declare that the Contra Costa Times is a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California as determined by court decree dated October 22, 1934, Case Number 19764. Said decree states that the Contra Costa Times is adjudged to be a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa and State of California. Said order has not been revoked.

I declare that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

08/13/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Walnut Creek, California.
On this 13th day of August, 2025.



Signature

Legal No.

0006911339

NOTICE As part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system by the Acalanes Union High School District, the District's Governing Board is holding public hearings to receive community comments and public testimony concerning the composition of potential trustee voting areas associated with the District's transition to a by-trustee area election system in advance of the preparation of draft trustee voting area plans by the District's demographer. The first public hearing was held on August 6, 2025. The second public hearing will be held during a Governing Board meeting at 7:05 p.m. on August 20, 2025. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the Acalanes Union High School District Office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. It can also be viewed through the AUHSD website using this link: <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/3668>. The meeting can be viewed online live, but members of the public wishing to address the Governing Board must do so in person at the District Office. Members of the public may also give input to the Board by email at schoolboard@auhdschools.org.

CCT 6911339; Aug. 13, 2025

Contra Costa Times

(925) 943-8019

2000178

ACALANES UNION USD
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1212 PLEASANT HILL RD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-2623

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

FILE NO. ProposedTrusteeVotingAreaPlans

Contra Costa Times

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the Legal Advertising Clerk of the printer and publisher of the Contra Costa Times, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, State of California.

I declare that the Contra Costa Times is a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California as determined by court decree dated October 22, 1934, Case Number 19764. Said decree states that the Contra Costa Times is adjudged to be a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa and State of California. Said order has not been revoked.

I declare that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

08/27/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Walnut Creek, California.
On this 27th day of August, 2025.



Signature

Legal No.

0006915094

NOTICE As part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system by the Acalanes Union High School District, the District's Governing Board will hold a public hearing to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans. The proposed trustee voting area maps will be available for viewing online at the District's webpage by visiting www.acalanes.k12.ca.us, then clicking "Governing Board" under the "District" drop down tab. Then click "Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System" on the left-hand side of the screen. In the alternative, visit: <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/4266>. The public hearing will be held during a Governing Board meeting in the District Office Community Room on September 3, 2025 at 7:45 p.m., located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

CCT 6915094; Aug. 27, 2025

Contra Costa Times

(925) 943-8019

2000178

ACALANES UNION USD
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1212 PLEASANT HILL RD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-2623

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

FILE NO. By-Trustee Area Election System

Contra Costa Times

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the Legal Advertising Clerk of the printer and publisher of the Contra Costa Times, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, State of California.

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I declare that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

09/10/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Walnut Creek, California.
On this 10th day of September, 2025.



Signature

Legal No.

0006918604

NOTICE As part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system by the Acalanes Union High School District, the District's Governing Board will hold a second public hearing to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans. The proposed trustee voting area maps are available for viewing online at the District's webpage, by visiting www.acalanes.k12.ca.us, then clicking "Governing Board" under the "District" drop down tab. Then click "Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System" on the left-hand side of the screen. In the alternative, visit: <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/4266>. The public hearing will be held during a Governing Board meeting in the District Office Community Room on September 17, 2025 at 7:20 p.m., located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

CCT 6918604; Sep. 10, 2025

Contra Costa Times

(925) 943-8019

2000178

ACALANES UNION USD
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1212 PLEASANT HILL RD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-2623

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

FILE NO. Proposed Trustee Voting Area Plans

Contra Costa Times

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the Legal Advertising Clerk of the printer and publisher of the Contra Costa Times, a newspaper published in the English language in the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, State of California.

I declare that the Contra Costa Times is a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California as determined by court decree dated October 22, 1934, Case Number 19764. Said decree states that the Contra Costa Times is adjudged to be a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa and State of California. Said order has not been revoked.

I declare that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

10/08/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Walnut Creek, California.
On this 8th day of October, 2025.



Signature

Legal No.

0006925183

NOTICE As part of the transition to a by-trustee area election system by the Acalanes Union High School District, the District's Governing Board will hold a public hearing to receive community comments and public testimony concerning proposed trustee voting area plans. The proposed trustee voting area maps will be available for viewing online at the District's webpage by visiting www.acalanes.k12.ca.us, then clicking "Governing Board" under the "District" drop down tab. Then click "Transition to By-Trustee Area Election System" on the left-hand side of the screen. In the alternative, visit: <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/4266>. The public hearing will be held during a Governing Board meeting in the District Office Community Room on October 15, 2025 at 7:20 p.m., located at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. Following the public hearing, the Board will vote to select a Trustee Area Map.

CCT 6925183; Oct. 8, 2025



Message from the Superintendent: Trustee Map Selected



AUHSD Communications • 5 hours ago • Thursday, Oct 16 at 10:26 AM • Board Members, AUHSD Community Notices, Acalanes Union High School District, AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, AUHSD Parents



Acalanes Union High School District

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

I am writing to share an important update regarding the District's transition to by-trustee area elections.

At its meeting on October 15, the Governing Board considered seven proposed trustee area maps and adopted [Resolution 25-26-20](#), approving Map 2 as the District's official trustee area plan. The Governing... [Read More](#)

Appreciate · Print

16,189 Notified · User Preferred Notifications · Staff, Parents, and Guests

1 person appreciates this post



Regular Governing Board Meeting Notice - October 15, 2025

AUHSD Communications • 4 days ago • Sunday, Oct 12 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



Acalanes Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

October 12, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

6:00 PM Closed Session

7:00 PM Open Session

7:20 PM Public Hearing

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will also be livestreamed through the [AUHSD website](#).

Items of interest to the public include:

- Public Hearing to Receive Public Testimony Concerning Proposed Trustee Voting Area Plans Associated with the District's Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System and Adoption of Final Trustee Area Plan
- AUHSD Athletics - Title IX Report

The [agenda and supporting documents](#) will be available online before the meeting.

AUHSD has moved to the Diligent Community website for all Board agendas and documents. You can now find all current and previous Board meeting agendas and documents conveniently located there.

Appreciate

803 Notified · Instant Notifications ·

Edit

Send Update

Duplicate

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Manage Collaborators

Print

Get a link

Comments



Regular Governing Board Meeting Notice - September 17, 2025

AUHSD Communications • a month ago • Sunday, Sep 14 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



Acalanes Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

September 14, 2025

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

6:00 PM Closed Session

7:00 PM Open Session

7:20 PM Public Hearing

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will also be livestreamed through the [AUHSD website](#).

Items of interest to the public include:

- Public Hearing to Receive Public Testimony Concerning Proposed Trustee Voting Area Plans Associated with the District's Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System
- Resolution 25-26-19: Affirming the Governing Board's Commitment to Whole District Representation Following Transition to By-Trustee Area Election Method
- 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals
- Multiyear Projection and Budget Challenges

The [agenda and supporting documents](#) will be available online before the meeting.

AUHSD has moved to the Diligent Community website for all Board agendas and documents. You can now find all current and previous Board meeting agendas and documents conveniently located there.

♥ Appreciate

🔔 805 Notified • Instant Notifications •

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💬 Comments ▾



Message from the Superintendent: Additional Map Options and Upcoming Meetings



AUHSD Communications • a month ago • Tuesday, Sep 9 at 6:07 PM • Board Members, AUHSD Community Notices, Acalanes Union High School District, AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, AUHSD Parents



Acalanes Union High School District

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

As the District continues the process of transitioning to "by-trustee-area" elections under the legal requirements of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), we have reached another key milestone. The District is releasing three additional draft map options—[2A](#), [2B](#), and [5](#)—for community review and input.

With... [Read More](#)

Appreciate • Print

🔔 16,477 Notified • Instant Notifications • Staff, Parents, and Guests

♥ 1 person appreciates this post



Regular Governing Board Meeting Notice - September 3, 2025

AUHSD Communications • 2 months ago • Sunday, Aug 31 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



Acalanes Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

August 31, 2025

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

6:00 PM Closed Session

7:00 PM Open Session

7:45 PM Public Hearing

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will also be livestreamed through the [AUHSD website](#).

Items of interest to the public include:

- Public Hearing to Receive Public Testimony Concerning Proposed Trustee Voting Area Plans Associated with the District's Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System
- 2025 Summer School Report
- Enrollment Update

Appreciate

813 Notified • Instant Notifications

Edit

Send Update

Duplicate

Delete

Manage Collaborators

Print

Get a link

Comments



Message from the Superintendent: MAP OPTIONS FOR TRANSITION FROM "AT-LARGE" TO "BY-TRUSTEE AREA" ELECTIONS



AUHSD Communications • 2 months ago • Wednesday, Aug 27 at 11:33 AM • Board Members, AUHSD Community Notices, Acalanes Union High School District, AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, AUHSD Parents



Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

As the District continues to move through the process of transitioning to "by-Trustee-area" elections under the legal requirements of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), we have reached a critical point. The District is releasing four map options to the community for study and input. All four of the map... [Read More](#)

Appreciate • Print

16,534 Notified • User Preferred Notifications • Staff, Parents, and Guests

4 people appreciate this post



Message from the Superintendent: Transition to a New System of Electing Governing Board Members



AUHSD Communications • 3 months ago • Monday, Jul 21 at 10:00 AM • Board Members, AUHSD Community Notices, Acalanes Union High School District, AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, AUHSD Parents



Acalanes Union High School District

Monday, July 21, 2025

Dear Acalanes Union High School District Community:

I am writing to update you and to encourage your participation in an important process led by the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board.

On July 9, 2025, the District initiated the process of transitioning the method by which the Board of Trustees are elected. Under the current "at-large" system, all... [Read More](#)

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AUHSD Special Governing Board Meeting Notice - August 20, 2025

AUHSD Communications • 2 months ago • Sunday, Aug 17 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



Acalanes Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

August 17, 2025

Special Meeting of the Governing Board

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

7:00 PM Open Session

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will also be livestreamed through the [AUHSD website](#).

Items of interest to the public include:

- Public Hearing #2 Regarding the Composition of Potential Trustee Voting Areas Associated with the District's Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System in Advance of the Preparation of Draft Trustee Voting Area Plans by the District's Demographer.

The [agenda and supporting documents](#) will be available online before the meeting.

AUHSD is moving to the Diligent Community website for all Board agendas and documents. You can now find all current and previous Board meeting agendas and documents conveniently located there.

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Regular Governing Board Meeting Notice - August 6, 2025

AUHSD Communications • 2 months ago • Sunday, Aug 3 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



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Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

August 3, 2025

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

6:00 PM Closed Session

7:00 PM Open Session

7:05 PM Public Hearing

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will also be livestreamed through the [AUHSD website](#).

Items of interest to the public include:

- Public Hearing Regarding the Composition of Potential Trustee Voting Areas Associated with the District's Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System in Advance of the Preparation of Draft Trustee Voting Area Plans by the District's Demographer
- 2025-2026 Budget Revision
- 2025-2026 Awareness and Heritage Month Calendar and Resolutions

The [agenda and supporting documents](#) will be available online before the meeting.

AUHSD is moving to the Diligent Community website for all Board agendas and documents. You can now find all current and previous Board meeting agendas and documents conveniently located there.

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AUHSD Special Governing Board Meeting Notice - July 9, 2025

AUHSD Communications • 3 months ago • Sunday, Jul 6 at 6:00 AM • AUHSD Governing Board Meeting Summaries & Notifications, Board Members



Acalanes Union High School District

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Special Meeting of the Governing Board

July 6, 2025

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

6:00 PM Closed Session

7:00 PM Open Session

This meeting will be conducted in person at the District Community Room. It will not be livestreamed or video recorded.

Items of interest to the public include:

- Resolution to Initiate a Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System Commencing with the 2026 Governing Board Election

The [agenda and supporting documents](#) will be available online before the meeting.

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Announcements

AUHSD Trustee Map Selected

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Transition to By-Trustee Area Elections

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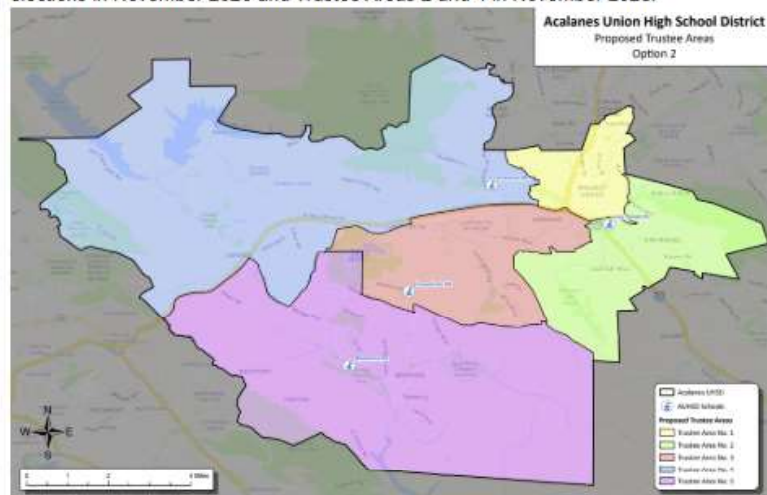
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AUHSD Trustee Map Selected

Dear AUHSD Community,

I am writing to share an important update regarding the District's transition to by-trustee area elections.

At its meeting on October 15, the Governing Board considered seven proposed trustee area maps and adopted [Resolution 25-26-20](#), approving Map 2 as the District's official trustee area plan. The Governing Board also established the election sequence as follows: Trustee Areas 1, 3 and 5 will hold elections in November 2026 and Trustee Areas 2 and 4 in November 2028.



While Governing Board members will be elected by trustee area, it is important to emphasize that all Board members remain committed and are obligated to serving and supporting all students and all schools across the District.

Please note that these maps do not affect school attendance boundaries. All current Governing Board members will continue to serve their existing terms and may seek reelection in their respective trustee areas.

For additional details about the map development and selection process, please visit our website: [Trustee Area Maps & Information](#).

The District initiated the transition from an at-large election system following a legal challenge to the current structure. As part of this process, we sought public input on proposed trustee area plans through multiple public hearings on August 6, August 20, 2025, September 3, September 17, and October 15.

We appreciate the community's participation and input throughout this important process.

Sincerely,

John Nickerson
Superintendent

Legal issue pushes AUHSD to change to district elections

By **Hatti Hamlin** - July 29, 2025

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The Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) voted unanimously to initiate a transition to election of the five board members by geographic districts, starting with the 2026 election.

Even though no one from Orinda is currently on the board, the new system doesn't necessarily mean this would change when the next election is held.

Instead, the creation of the geographic districts must focus on achieving a "meaningful" improvement in representation by Latinos. (The law does not define "meaningful," and court cases have yet to clarify it.)

Once an AUHSD voting district map is adopted, the transition will be implemented in stages, beginning in 2026 when three of the current board terms end (Jennifer Chen-Moraga; Stacey Schweppes-Walnut Creek; and Nancy Kendzierski-Moraga) and elections will be held in three of the new voting areas.

With the expiration of the last current board terms in 2028 (Paul Chopra-Lafayette; Wendy Reicher-Lafayette) the elections for the final two voting areas will take place and the transition will be complete.

It is possible that at least two of the current board members will end up in the same geographic district where they presently reside. Note, however, that Prop. 11, passed in 2008 by California voters to address state assembly and senate redistricting, established a policy that "the place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate or political party."

"If two current board members end up in the same district and both terms expire at the same time, they will have to run against each other for reelection," said AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson. "It will be more complicated, however, if two members end up in the same district but one term ends in 2026 and the other in 2028. No current board member can be forced to leave their seat prematurely, so we need to work out those details."

The change is the result of a demand letter from Kevin Shenkman of Shenkman & Hughes, a Malibu-based law firm, well-known for threatening cities, school boards and other public entities governed by elected boards with potential lawsuits under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) passed in 2022.

"Financially, we have no other choice," said board member Stacey Schweppe, explaining her support for the resolution. "We are between a rock and a hard place."

Other members echoed the sentiment.

"If we try to fight it, it would be a waste of money," said Paul Chopra, another board member.

Board member Wendy Reicher added, "Even if we won, we couldn't afford the legal fees."

The financial reality the district faces is that Shenkman has racked up millions of dollars in legal fees from cities, including Santa Monica, Palmdale and Santa Clara, which chose to fight rather than switch from at-large elections to district elections. They paid enormous legal fees to Shenkman – billed at \$850 per hour – in addition to charges from their own lawyers in a losing battle.

Avoiding a court fight and transitioning from at-large to geographic district voting system will cost about \$80,000 to \$90,000.

In his letter to the district board, Shenkman said, " ... voting within the District is racially polarized, resulting in minority vote dilution, and therefore AUHSD's at-large elections violate the California Voting Rights Act of 2001."

In his letter, Shenkman alleges that the at-large system specifically dilutes the ability of Latinos to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of the district's board elections.

Latinos comprise approximately 12% of the district's population, he says, but " ... [their] representation on AUHSD's governing board has been non-existent. ... The contrast between the significant Latino proportion of the electorate and complete absence of Latino elected to the AUHSD Board is outwardly disturbing and fundamentally hostile towards participation from members of this protected class."

The CVRA establishes a tight timeline for responses to demands. AUHSD received Shenkman's letter on May 30 and had 45 days to reply with a resolution to begin the transition process.

Now, the clock is ticking for another 90-day period in which to select a demographer to draw up a suggested map, hold two pre-map public hearings for input on how to structure the five voting districts, and hold two more public hearings presenting map options for public reaction.

A third map meeting will be held to adopt the final map by the end of the 90-day period, though voter approval of the map and new system is not required.

"We really will be relying on the public to give opinions on where the map lines should be drawn," said Jennifer Chen, board president, while expressing "reluctant approval" for the resolution. "We hope everyone engages in good faith and that we can protect the strong sense of still being 'one school district'."

"So far, so good," Shenkman responded when asked to comment on the board's decision. "We look forward to seeing this play out over the next 90 days."

Shenkman said there are "community folks in the school district that will keep an eye on the process to make sure it is done right."

Shenkman said the law requires that the new voting districts be equal in population and that they keep "like populations together as much as possible."

While acknowledging the near impossibility of creating a Latino majority district, he said, "The politics here are not that of Mississippi in the '60s. A minority population of even 30% is often able to elect their candidate of choice here."

Since board members serve a four-year term, the new system should save on election costs, which are based on the number of ballots that must be mailed and counted.

In any given election, only two or three of the five seats would be up for grabs. Ballots would only go to those voters in the affected areas, instead of the entire voter population within the school district.

AUHSD Public Hearing Dates

The Governing Board will hold public hearings seeking input on proposed trustee area boundaries (or maps) prior to asking the County Committee on School District Organization to approve the change.

If the Committee approves the change, "by-trustee area" voting would be held starting with the 2026 Board of Trustees election, on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

Public Hearings seeking input prior to the creation of map options:

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, Regular Governing Board meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, Special Governing Board meeting

Public Hearings seeking input on map options and Board decision:

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, Regular Governing Board meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, Regular Governing Board meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, Regular Governing Board meeting

The Orinda News

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Orinda likely to be divided when AUHSD devises its new districts

By **Hatti Hamlin** - September 27, 2025

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With less than one month to go, the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Board continues to determine key priorities for the map that will define the new By-Trustee election system. Instead of all voters in the district voting for all candidates, starting in 2026, five equal blocks of voters will elect only one trustee per area.

The change to a By-Trustee system is the result of a threatened lawsuit triggered by the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), which prohibits the use of at-large elections when the "system impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election . . ."

The CVRA defines a protected class as a race, color or language minority group.

Despite the fact that it is mathematically impossible to create a voting area anywhere in the district that would give a protected class a majority of voters, the district's lawyer Jonathan Salt (of F3, a law firm specializing in education law), and demographer David Lopez, are helping to design a map that follows the complicated rules while at least strengthening the voting clout of Asian and Latino residents in one or more of the areas.

Which means that creating the new Trustee Areas is a complicated process. The demographer must divide the district's 2020 Census population of 119,039 into five areas with populations of 23,808 (plus or minus 10%). Each area must be contiguous, geographically compact, and must take into consideration "natural boundaries," such as major highways and city limits. He must avoid severing "communities of interest," and attempt to adhere to high school and feeder school boundaries.

Making it even more challenging, none of the district's 1,100 census tracts can be broken up.

At the third public hearing (Sept. 3) – the first to offer map options – Lopez presented four choices.

Some maps took into consideration natural boundaries such as freeways and major surface streets. Some gave more weight to maintaining "communities of interest," such as Rossmoor. And others tried to keep as many high school and feeder school boundaries intact as possible.

All the maps conformed to the CVRA requirements.

One quirk in the first four maps resulted from the combination of demographics, which vary widely from community to community, and the emphasis on enhancing the voting influence of protected minorities.

In general, Orinda has a smaller population of voting age minority citizens than other communities in the district, causing Lopez to place many Orinda voters in a trustee area that does not include Miramonte High School.

Some priorities emerged from the hearing. Trustees wanted more emphasis on aligning trustee area boundaries with feeder school boundaries. They also wanted changes to maps that grouped the Springhill elementary school area (in Lafayette) with the Buena Vista area (in Walnut Creek) in a single trustee area. Although geographically close, these communities differ significantly demographically and placing them together would diminish the influence of Latino and low-income voters.

As a result, Lopez created variations of the existing maps, and one new map that follows high school boundaries as much as possible. Among the three new maps, one finally puts the majority of Orinda in the same trustee area as Miramonte.

Continued concern over the possibility of creating trustee areas that will promote divisiveness is what led Board President Jennifer Chen to ask Salt to draft a resolution to bind all future trustees to faithfully represent the entire district.

No matter which voting map prevails, none of the high school attendance boundaries will change. All current AUHSD trustees will serve out their full terms. Their future eligibility to run for reelection will depend on the final map the board adopts, and where each trustee resides.

In all scenarios, Orinda would not vote for a new trustee until 2028.

The final public hearing and map adoption is Oct. 15. Maps under consideration are available on the district website (bit.ly/463NCHG), where the public can submit comments.

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