

**RESOLUTION**  
**SUPPORTING FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES – SANTA CLARA COUNTY LEAs**  
**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO: 2034-1**

WHEREAS the California Voting Rights Act enacted in January 2002 expands upon the federal Voting Rights Act and provides standing to a protected class of citizens who are impaired in their ability to elect a candidate of choice or influence election outcomes due to racially polarized voting and where said act provides a remedy to mitigate any violations through district-based elections; and

WHEREAS the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights has successfully argued in Madera County Superior Court that at-large school district elections impaired the ability of a protected class of citizens to elect a candidate of choice and to influence the election; and

WHEREAS 91% of the school districts in Santa Clara County have a system of at-large elections; and

WHEREAS the County Committee on School District Organization pursuant to Education Code 5019 is responsible for the process to establish school district trustee areas and to establish a trustee area based election method; and

WHEREAS the process of establishing trustee areas can be initiated by school district boards, the County Committee, or through a petition of 10% of registered voters of a school district; and

WHEREAS the members of the Santa Clara County Board of Education are elected by trustee area, representing seven diverse and distinct communities of interest in Santa Clara County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education supports fair election practices and the remedies to ensure fair election practices and encourages local school boards to review the process by which they (trustees) are elected to ensure the process fully supports the letter as well as the spirit of the CA Voting Rights Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education encourages the County Committee on School District Organization to include this matter in their 2009 work plan and to report their findings and recommendations in 2009.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 18, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES: President Mann, Vice President Song, members Beauchman, Ho, Mah, Di Salvo and Howard

NOES: -none-

ABSTAIN: -none-

ABSENT: -none-

Signed by:



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Charles Weis, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools



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Craig Mann, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education