

Citizens for Positive Education Change
Reforming Elections in West Contra Costa Unified School District

Trustee Area Elections
for the West Contra Costa Unified School District

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (previously know as the Richmond Unified School District) was created in 1965 in response to state pressures for the unification of school districts. The schools from five separate cities and six unincorporated territories were brought together into a single administrative unit. Currently, there are five (5) School Board members that can live anywhere within the district and through "at-large" elections they are elected to represent the entire school district.

It's time for a change.

What We Propose

The District would be divided into five (5) smaller "trustee areas". For each trustee area, the registered voters of each area would elect a member residing in that area. (This is the way the County Board of Education and County Board of Supervisors are elected.) The trustee areas will be phased in as the current Board members' terms begin to expire in 2010.

Some of the Advantages of Trustee Area Elections

- More geographic areas and communities of interest would have the opportunity to be represented on the Board.
- Candidates would be able to run significant campaigns within the smaller trustee area with less money and organizational clout.
- Many of the advantages of breaking up the District into smaller more human-scale districts could be realized without the legal, financial, and political complications.
- Board members would be able to get to know the constituencies and schools within their particular trustee areas.
- Voters would feel more connected to the political system because of the broader geographical basis for representation.
- Accountability of Board members to constituents through direct representation.

To Find Out More

For more information or to just get a copy of the complete 22-page report *Trustee Areas for the Election of West Contra Unified School District Trustees* contact:

Citizens for Positive Education Change
510.778.9098 • TrusteeAreas@aol.com or visit: **www.districtguide.org**

See the back for a map of our proposed option for trustee areas.

Join us!