

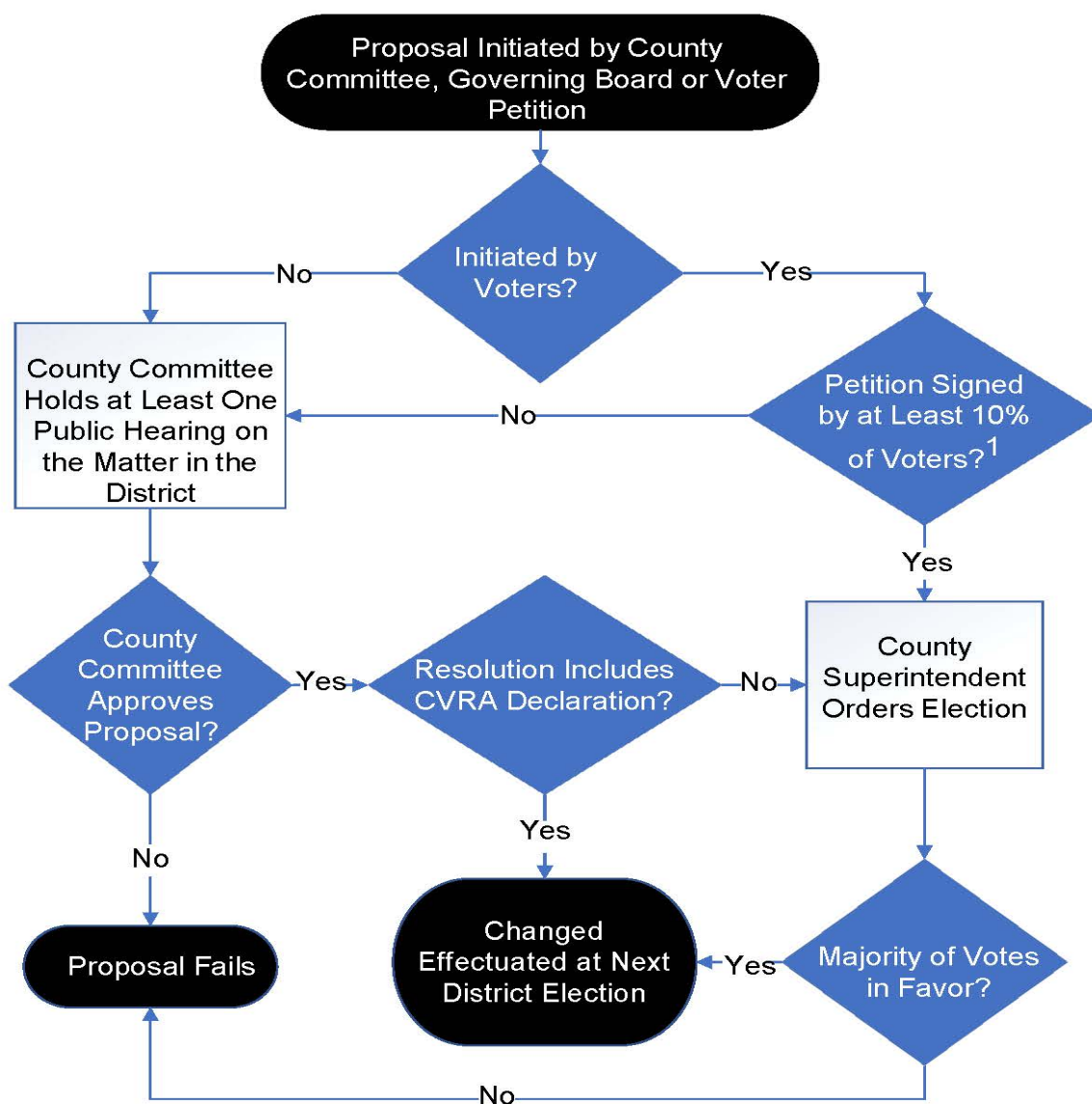
# SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION HANDBOOK

## Quick Reference Guide 10.1. Create or Abolish Trustee Areas

A proposal to create or abolish trustee areas for a school district may be initiated by the county committee on school district organization (County Committee), school district governing board (Governing Board), or by a petition of the registered voters within the school district.

Proposals initiated by the County Committee or by the Governing Board follow the same method for effectuating change. A petition by the voters follows a slightly different method. These two methods are illustrated in Flowchart 10.1, below, and described on the subsequent page.

Flowchart 10.1. Create or Abolish Governing Board Trustee Areas



<sup>1</sup>County Committee may hold one or more public hearings.

## Method 1.

**Proposal to create or abolish trustee areas for a school district initiated by county committee, school district governing board, or by petition of the voters where petition was signed by fewer than 10 percent of registered voters.**

- Step 1 County Committee receives request/initiates action to create or abolish trustee areas. (*Education Code (EC) Section 5019*)
- Step 2 County Committee calls and conducts at least one public hearing in the district on the matter. (*EC 5019*)
- Step 3 At the conclusion of the hearing, the County Committee approves or disapproves the proposal. Disapproval results in the failure of the proposal.
- Step 4 If the County Committee approves the proposal and its resolution approving the proposal includes a declaration that the change furthers the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) (*Elections Code Section 14025 et seq.*), the change takes effect at the next district election. Otherwise, the approval of the proposal constitutes an order of election. (*EC 5020*)
- Step 5 Proposal is placed on the ballot not later than the next succeeding election for members of the Governing Board. (*EC 5020[a]*)
- Step 6 If a majority of those voting approve the proposal, any affected board member serves out his or her term, and succeeding board members are elected according to the selected method. (*EC 5021*)

## Method 2.

**Proposal to create or abolish trustee areas for a school district initiated by petition of voters where petition was signed by at least 10 percent of school district's registered voters.**

- Step 1 Petition proposing to create or abolish trustee areas is filed containing at least 10 percent of the signatures of the school district's registered voters. (*EC 5020[c]*)<sup>1</sup>
- Step 2 Proposal is placed on the ballot not later than the next succeeding election for members of the Governing Board. (*EC 5020[a]*)
- Step 3 If a majority of those voting approve the proposal, any affected board member serves out his or her term, and succeeding board members are elected according to the selected method. (*EC 5021*)

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the placing the proposal on the ballot, the County Committee may call and conduct one or more public hearings on the matter. (*EC 5020[c]*)

## Notes

- Whenever trustee areas are established in a school district, provision must be made for one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members. (EC 5030). See Quick-Reference Guide 10.5 for more information.
- *School District Organization Handbook*, Chapter 10, Section C, “Legal Provisions: Supporting Actions,” provides more detailed information about the steps and addresses several topics related to trustees and trustee areas. It also includes matters pertaining to county board of education trustees and trustee areas.