

**DEL PASO HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRANT JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SACRAMENTO SCHOOL DISTRICT
RIO LINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

MEASURE B

B Shall the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, the Grant Joint Union High School District, the North Sacramento Elementary School District, and the Rio Linda Elementary School District unify into one new district serving students in kindergarten through grade 12, with a seven-member governing board consisting of one member residing in each of seven trustee areas elected by the registered voters of the entire unified school district?

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE B

Prepared by Sacramento County Counsel

Measure B proposes the creation of a new K-12 school district through the unification of four existing school districts: the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District (grades K-6), the North Sacramento Elementary School District (K-7), the Rio Linda Union School District (K-8), and the Grant Joint Union High School District (7-12). The boundaries of the new school district would be identical to the boundaries of the existing Grant school district. The Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda school district currently lie within the boundaries of, and send their secondary school students to schools in, the Grant school district. The Elverta Joint Elementary School District (K-8) and the Robla Elementary School District (K-6), which also lie within the boundaries of, and send their secondary school students to schools in, the Grant school district are not included within the school district unification proposed by Measure B. They would remain independent elementary school districts and would send their students to secondary schools that would be part of the new unified school district. If Measure B is passed by the voters, the unification would be effective for all purposes on July 1, 2008.

The school district unification proposed by Measure B would include all the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the existing four districts so that all of such property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of each existing district would become the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the new unified school district. The new unified district would also assume the rights and responsibilities of all the school districts included within the unification proposal, including charter schools and community day schools.

Education Code Section 35555 provides that the proposed unification will not impact the classification of certificated employees already employed by any affected school district. Such employees will have the same status with respect to their classification by their employing school district after the unification as they had prior to it. Education Code Section 35556 provides that the unification will not affect the rights of persons employed in positions not requiring certification qualifications and, therefore, these employees will retain the same salary, leaves, and other benefits that they would have had if the unification did not occur.

The proposed new unified school district will be governed by a seven member governing board whose members will be elected at the same time as the election on the unification of the school districts. One governing board member for the proposed new district will be elected from each of seven trustee areas, all candidates for each trustee area must reside in that trustee area, and candidates will be voted on by the registered voters of the entire

proposed unified school district. The initial terms of the trustees of the proposed new unified district shall be four years, unless the governing board consolidates the election of governing board members with the statewide general election in which case the initial terms of the trustees will be three years. Trustees elected at this next governing board election shall have either two-year (even-numbered trustee areas) or four-year (odd-numbered trustee areas) terms. Thereafter, all governing board members will have four-year terms.

Passage of Measure B requires approval by a majority of the voters voting thereon.

Statement of Official Information and Statistics

MEASURE B

Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization

Statement of Official Information and Statistics Relating to the Proposed Establishment of a New North Area K-12 School District Through the Unification of the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, the Grant Joint Union High School District, the North Sacramento Elementary School District, and the Rio Linda Union Elementary School District, and the Election of Governing Board Members of the New K-12 School District if it is Approved

June 19, 2007

Description of Unification Proposal

The proposal is to create a new North Area K-12 school district through the unification of four existing school districts: the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District (grades K-6), the Grant Joint Union High School District (7-12), the North Sacramento Elementary School District (K-7), and the Rio Linda Union School District (K-8). (The governing board of the new district would determine its name.) The boundaries of the new school district would be identical to the current boundaries of the Grant school district. The Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda school districts lie within the boundaries of, and currently send their secondary students to schools in, the Grant school district. No students would be required to change schools as a result of the proposed unification. The proposed unification would include all of the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the existing four districts; that is, all of the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of each district would become the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the new district. The new district would assume the rights and responsibilities of all school districts in the unification, including charter schools and community day schools.

The Elverta Joint Elementary School District (K-8) and the Robla Elementary School District (K-6), which also lie within the boundaries of, and currently send their secondary students to schools in, the Grant school district, would be excluded (by their choice) from the unification. They would remain independent elementary school districts, and would send their 9-12 (Elverta) or 7-12 (Robla) students to the same secondary schools they attend now, but those schools would be part of the new unified school district instead of the existing Grant Joint Union High School District.

Rationale

The governing boards of the four districts believe that creating a unified school district would (a) provide for greater educational opportunities to all of their students through seamless articulation and consolidation of programs and resources, (b) be sound fiscal and educational policy, and (c) address the community and academic needs of all the students and residents in the north area of Sacramento County. The proposed unified school district will receive more state funding than the total amount received separately by the four districts (see below).

Background

This proposal was initiated in June 2006 by the submission to the Sacramento County Office of Education of resolutions by the governing boards of the four participating districts. In August 2006, the Sacramento County Board of Education, acting as the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee), held public hearings on the proposal in Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda. In December 2006, the County Committee added two provisions to the proposal (that the governing board would have seven members, and that the election for the first governing board would be held at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts) and voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the proposal. In addition, the County Committee voted to recommend to the SBE that the governing board of the new district be elected from trustee areas (by either all registered voters in the district or the registered voters within each trustee area) that reflect communities of interest.

In March 2007, the SBE held a public hearing on the proposal after which it approved the proposal, allowing it to go to the voters. The SBE also approved the requested exclusion from the unification of the Elverta and Robla school districts, and the County Committee's recommendations that the governing board have seven members, elected from trustee areas, and that the election for the first governing board be held at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts. The SBE specified that the governing board members be elected by the voters of the entire school district, and that the territory in which the election regarding the proposed unification would be held would be the entire Grant Joint Union High School District.

The unification proposal will pass if a majority of all the votes cast are in favor of the proposal. If passed by the voters, the unification would be effective for all purposes on July 1, 2008.

Governing Board Members

Governing board members of the proposed new unified school district are being elected at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts. One governing board member for the proposed new district will be elected from each of seven trustee areas, all candidates for each trustee area must reside in that trustee area, and candidates will be voted on by the registered voters of the entire proposed unified school district. The attached map shows the boundaries of the trustee areas.

Pending State Board of Education approval at its July 11-12 meeting, the initial terms of the trustees shall be four years, unless the governing board consolidates the election of governing board members with the statewide general election, in which case the initial terms of the trustees shall be three years. Trustees elected at the next governing board member election shall have two-year (even-numbered trustee areas) or four-year (odd-numbered trustee areas) terms. Thereafter, all governing board members will have four-year terms. (If the SBE does not approve this pro-

vision, then the initial terms of the governing board members elected from the even-numbered trustee areas will end on December 7, 2008, and the initial terms of the governing board members elected from the odd-numbered trustee areas will end on December 3, 2010.)

Rights of Employees

If the new district is formed, employees of the existing four districts will become employees of the new district. *Education Code* §35555 provides that the unification shall not affect the classification of certificated employees already employed by any school district affected. Such employees shall have the same status with respect to their classification by the district, including time served as probationary employees of the district, after the unification as they had prior to it. *Education Code* §35556 provides that the unification shall not affect the rights of persons employed in positions not requiring certification qualifications to retain the salary, leaves, and other benefits that they would have had if the unification had not occurred.

Enrollment and Rate of Growth

In 2006-07, the combined enrollment of the four participating districts was 30,713. This number has been very stable since 2001-02, when combined enrollment was 30,553. It is expected, therefore, that if the new district were approved, it would have between 30,000 and 31,000 students its first year of operation (2008-09), and little change in enrollment would be expected over the next few years.

Financial Information

Based on 2006-07 data, the revenue limit per pupil for the proposed unified school district is estimated to be \$6,262. (The revenue limit per pupil is the general purpose money a district receives from the state for each student. This amount is multiplied by the district's average daily attendance to get the total revenue limit funding for the district. If the proposed district is approved, the California Department of Education will calculate the actual revenue limit.) This represents about an 8 percent increase in the revenue limit per pupil for the four separate districts combined, and an increase of approximately \$12,500,000 in total revenue funding annually. Because Proposition 98 dictates the total state support for schools, this increase will not increase the total amount the state pays for education. In the future, state support for the proposed new district is expected to continue at levels comparable to those provided to unified school districts of similar size and characteristics.

The districts that will be unified currently receive additional state funding for gifted and talented pupils, home-to-school transportation, instructional materials, staff development, school improvement program, and other miscellaneous programs. Unification would not impact continued eligibility for the current funding levels; the effect of unification on state categorical programs and entitlements is essentially revenue neutral because the funding follows the students.

Because no students will be displaced or transferred to different schools as a result of the proposed unification, no additional facilities should be required as a consequence of the unification and, therefore, there should be no change in the costs of housing the existing student population.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Our area's schools are an amalgamation of 6 distinct school districts (5 elementary districts and a high school district). Established 75 years ago when the north Sacramento area was mostly rural, today these districts have overlapping boundaries, duplicate administrations and needless bureaucracy.

Measure B will combine 4 of the districts (Rio Linda Union, North Sacramento, Del Paso Heights and the Grant High School District) into one, new unified school district. Measure B is supported by teachers, both Democratic and Republican elected officials, business and religious leaders and each individual school district. The new district will make local schools better by eliminating bureaucracy and needless administration and redirecting resources into the classroom.

Instead of funding four separate school systems with four separate administrations, taxpayers will see their tax dollars better utilized in improved programs and opportunities for children. Because of the overlapping administrations, our local schools do not get their fair share of state educational funding. Passage of Measure B will qualify our local schools for an additional \$15 million in yearly state funding. This money will not be available to our schools if Measure B fails.

Classrooms teachers support Measure B because more resources will be spent in the classroom. Students will have a single, coordinated curriculum from preschool through 12th grade. Parents are supportive because the best academic programs from each school will be maintained and expanded to benefit all students throughout the new district. Students will be better prepared for college and careers.

Today, four different district administrations, four superintendents, 20 school board members and dozens of school administrators manage our local schools. Measure B will create one, streamlined administration, one new superintendent and a single seven member elected school board. This will improve fiscal oversight and eliminate duplicative functions. With less money spent on administration, more money will go to the classroom to benefit students.

Measure B will not raise tax rates. A single unified school district will save taxpayer money. Measure B will not close schools. No elementary, middle school or high school will be closed.

Measure B will not force students to attend a school outside their community or change where they go to school today. Students will continue to attend their local schools in their own neighborhoods.

Measure B will not result in teacher layoffs. In fact, Measure B will help attract and retain quality teachers.

Please join the teachers, parents and community leaders who support Measure B. Help us improve our local schools. Vote YES on Measure B.

s/Barbara Donovan, Rio Linda Teacher of the Year

s/Bill Murchison, Superintendent (Retired) Rio Linda Union School District

s/Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

s/John McGinness, Sheriff

s/Grantland Johnson, Former Sacramento County Supervisor

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Reasonable people can easily disagree with this flawed idea because:

Over the past 50 years, there have been many attempts to create one unified school district in our area. Those attempts have failed because the voters did not support a unified district largely because of a lack of confidence in the Grant high school district's management skills and educational programs.

Measure B will create a huge school district; so big that parents will not have the personal touch they now receive from their current school board. Their children will just be a number in a massive bureaucracy.

Elementary children will lose. More money will go to the high schools with fewer dollars going to the elementary schools.

Taxpayers should be concerned with the inappropriate use of public dollars to promote Measure B. In fact, thousands of dollars are being used to promote this scheme under the guise of voter information. Beware of propaganda pieces that appear in the "favor" arguments, campaign materials that will soon arrive in your mailbox or sent home from your child's school, and articles that will appear in your local newspapers.

Measure B destroys local control. This scheme creates a school board elected from geographical areas whose interests and priorities may differ from those of the whole school district. If trustees have narrow interests, this can interfere with their willingness to cooperate to achieve common goals.

It's time to focus on student achievement, not create a massive bureaucracy. Please vote NO on Measure B. Thank you.

s/Wess Larson, Founding Member of Families for Better Education and Member, Board of Trustees, Rio Linda Union School District

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

Warning! If you are one of the 19,000 voters that signed a petition that was circulated by Families for Better Education, a citizens group of parents and community members to reform the governance structure of public schools in the north area of Sacramento County, this is not the reforms that were envisioned in that petition.

Measure B is a risky proposition that will create a gigantic thirty thousand student school district, and then say "this is good" for our children. Simply put, bigger is not always better!

Nothing is more important to the future of the communities of Del Paso Heights, Foothill Farms, Natomas, North Highlands, North Sacramento, Robla, Rio Linda and Woodlake, than its public schools. Our success and prosperity depends on excellent schools where every child learns, and school boards and administrators are held accountable to the voters to see that it occurs. Measure B combines four school districts into one huge massive bureaucracy. Thus, destroying a central democratic principle of our society that of local control where communities of interest determine their own priorities.

I strongly support the restructuring of schools into a few "family-friendly" unified (K-12) school districts with economies of scale that maintain communities of interest, strengthen student achievement, enhance course alignment and improve articulation for all students to learn. But, Measure B is not the answer!

Please join me in voting NO on Measure B! Thank you.

s/Wess Larson, Founding Member of Families for Better Education and Member, Board of Trustees, Rio Linda Union School District

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

The argument from the lone opponent of Measure B is misleading and inaccurate.

Here are the facts:

Measure B will do three things – first, it will reduce bureaucracy and waste and will redirect tax payer dollars back to the classroom; second, it will improve educational opportunities for local children; third, it will ensure our communities get our fair share of state funding.

Measure B enjoys unprecedented levels of support from school and community leaders. People who have disagreed about previous school reorganization efforts have now come together to support Measure B.

Measure B will strengthen local schools and improve accountability. A single, seven member elected school board will represent the north area community. Each trustee will reside in the community they represent. Elizabeth Mitchell, Rio Linda Trustee agrees, "County education officials have mapped out trustee areas so there is guaranteed representation from every single part of our community."

Measure B will create a new unified school district that is appropriately sized for the north area community and improve classroom education. It will be half the size of nearby Elk Grove Unified School District (53,400 students). Elk Grove USD is highly regarded with student test scores among the highest in the state.

Join parents, teachers, community leaders and the Sacramento Bee who said, "The 168,000 people who live in the four north area school districts deserve better from their education system...voters should support a north area unified school district to bring together the best of four districts into a single district."

Please vote YES.

s/Roger Niello, CA Assemblyman

s/Elizabeth Mitchell, Member Board of Trustees Rio Linda Union School District

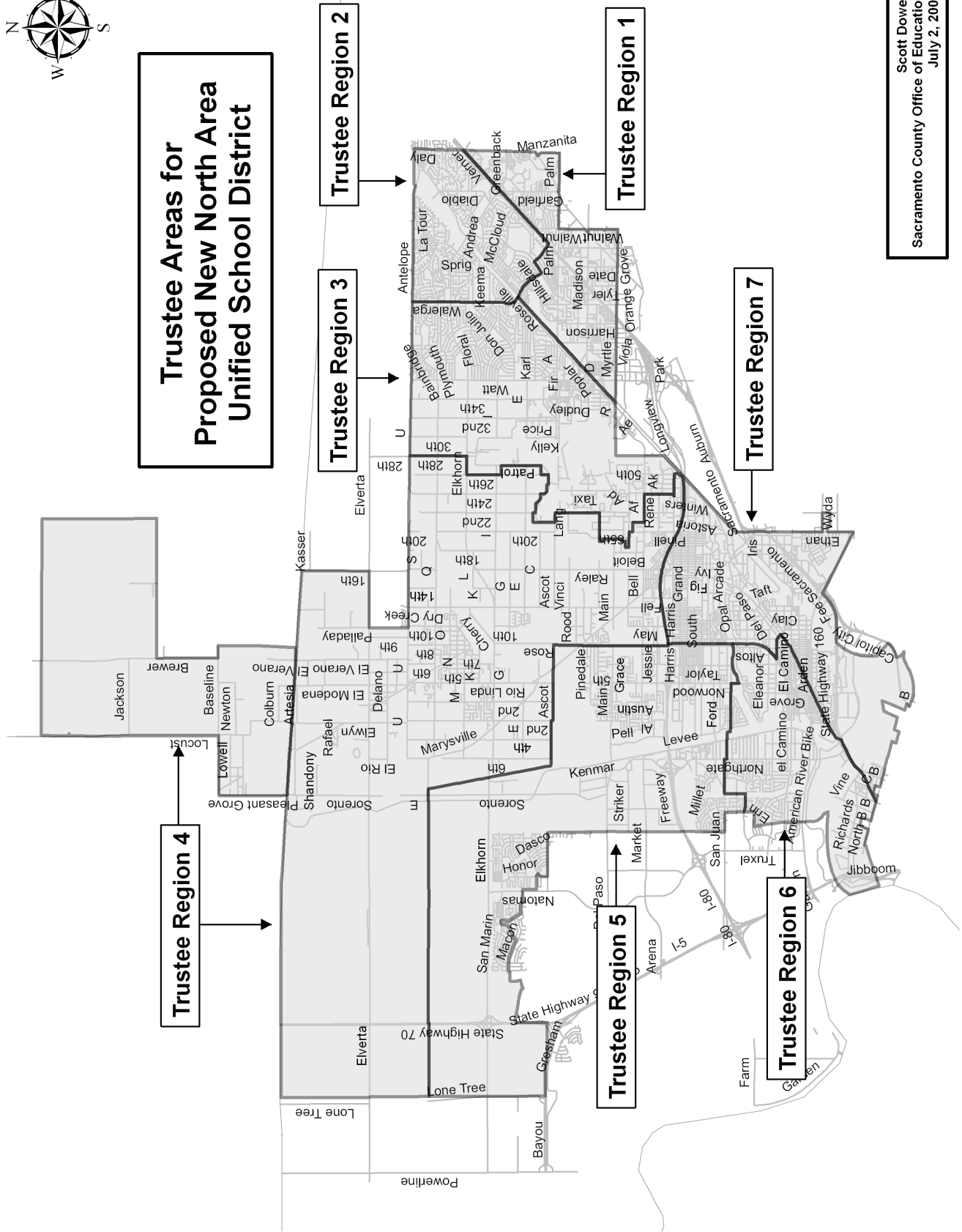
s/James C. Shelby, President & CEO Greater Sacramento Urban League

s/David Berry, Teacher Rio Linda High

s/Wendell W. Echols, Retired School Employee



**Trustee Areas for
Proposed New North Area
Unified School District**



Scott Dowell
Sacramento County Office of Education
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