

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
February 18, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) was called to order by Chairperson Suzie Swartz at 6:05 p.m., February 18, 2026, in the Board Room of the Ocean View School District (OVSD).

2. FLAG SALUTE Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Swartz.

3. ROLL CALL Chairperson Swartz asked Ms. Melanie McLean to take roll.

Present:

Suzie Swartz, Chairperson	Jackie Filbeck
David Johnson, Vice Chairperson	Karin Freeman
Lauren Brooks	Kathleen Heard
Marilyn Buchi	Kathy Moffat
Paulette Chaffee	Randy Reta

Absent:

Sheila Benecke

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Member Lauren Brooks, seconded by Member Karin Freeman, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the agenda as presented.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES Motion by Member Freeman, seconded by Member Paulette Chaffee, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the County Committee minutes of the October 29, 2025, meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Swartz inquired whether there were any members of the public who wished to address the County Committee. No public comment was received.

7. PROPOSAL BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY RECOMMENDING THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION APPROVE AND ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS FROM WHICH THE OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES WILL BE ELECTED IN A BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTION PROCESS (OVSD RESOLUTION NO. 08:2526)

A. County Committee Staff Report on Ocean View School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and Adopt By-Trustee Area Method of Election

Howard Marinier, Secretary to the County Committee, presented the Staff Report regarding the OVSD) Proposal to establish five trustee areas and transition from at-large to a by-trustee area method of election. He reported that the OVSD Board adopted Resolution No. 08:2526 on October 14, 2025, recommending approval of Trustee Area Map #2 and a proposed election sequence under which Trustee Areas 2, 4, and 5 would be elected in November 2026 and Trustee Areas 1 and 3 in November 2028. The Resolution also indicated the proposed change is in furtherance of the California Voting Rights Act. The proposal was received by the County Committee on November 4, 2025.

Mr. Marinier provided an overview of the applicable legal framework, including the California Voting Rights Act and the FAIR MAPS Act, and stated that the County Committee is required to conduct at least one public hearing within the OVSD boundaries and may approve or disapprove the proposal by resolution. Mr. Marinier further reported that the Staff Report and proposed resolution were included in the agenda materials and made available to the public.

B. Public Hearing

Chairperson Swartz explained the format of the hearing as set forth in the County Committee bylaws.

1. Open Public Hearing

Chairperson Swartz opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

2. Presentation by Representatives of Ocean View School District

District representatives present for the public hearing included: Todd Robbins, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson Loya, Rudd & Romo, LLP, OVSD legal counsel; David Lopez, Western Schools Strategic Consulting, OVSD Demographer; Dr. Julianne Hoefer, OVSD Superintendent; and Ms. Gina Clayton-Tarvin, OVSD Board President.

Mr. Lopez presented an overview of OVSD's proposal to transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections and adopt Trustee Area Map Scenario 2. Mr. Lopez reported that OVSD began the transition process in January 2025 and that on October 14, 2025, the OVSD Board adopted Resolution No. 08:2526 selecting Map Scenario 2 and approving the proposed election sequencing placing Trustee Areas 2, 4, and 5 on the ballot in November 2026 and Trustee Areas 1 and 3 in November 2028. Mr. Lopez summarized the demographic analysis used in developing the maps, including 2020 Census population data and Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) estimates from the American Community Survey. He explained that trustee area boundaries were developed in accordance with applicable legal criteria, including population equality at an overall population deviation of 8.4%, which is within the allowable 10 percent deviation, contiguity, compactness, and consideration of communities of interest, neighborhood boundaries, and census geography.

Mr. Lopez further reported that demographic analysis concluded that it was not possible to create a majority-minority trustee area based on the distribution of the district's population, but that the adopted map reflects concentrations of protected class populations within certain trustee areas.

3. Public Comments

Gina Clayton-Tarvin, President of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, addressed the County Committee in support of OVSD's proposal to transition from at-large to by-trustee area elections and encouraged the County Committee to approve the proposal.

There were no other public comments.

4. Rebuttals

- a. Representatives for Ocean View School District
No rebuttals by OVSD representatives.
- b. Public Comments
No rebuttals by the public.

5. Questions from the County Committee Members

Chairperson Swartz opened the floor for County Committee member questions. Committee members asked questions regarding: the timing of receipt of OVSD's presentation materials; the District's process for developing, considering, and selecting trustee area maps; criteria considered in adopting the map, the Board's actions to rescind its prior approval and adopt a different map and election sequence; differences between map scenarios considered; the data sources used, including discrepancy in CVAP information; the feasibility of creating a majority-minority trustee area; public participation during the District's process; and the rationale for the proposed election sequencing.

District representatives responded that the Board initially considered and approved a map and sequencing in May 2025 but did not adopt a final resolution at that time, and subsequently revisited the item in October 2025, at which time it rescinded its prior action and adopted a different map and election sequence. District representatives further clarified that no new maps were introduced between May and October, and that updated CVAP data resulted in minor changes that did not alter the conclusion that a majority-minority trustee area could not be drawn. The District also summarized public comment received during the process and explained that the proposed election sequencing was based on trustee term timing and Board deliberation.

Vice Chairperson David Johnson asked OCDE legal counsel whether there were any legal issues that would prevent the County Committee from proceeding with consideration of OVSD's proposal. Ms. Lysa Saltzman, OCDE legal counsel, confirmed that the County Committee may proceed with consideration of the proposal.

6. Close Public Hearing

Chairperson Swartz closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

C. County Committee Discussion and Vote on Resolution Approving the Establishment of Trustee Areas, the Change in the Method of Election to a By-Trustee Area Election Process, and Establishment of Sequence of Elections in the Ocean View School District

Chairperson Swartz opened the floor for discussions by the County Committee members. Committee members engaged in discussion regarding OVSD's process, the differences between Map 4 and Map 2, the proposed sequencing of elections given the demographic composition and the absence of a majority Hispanic/Latino or Asian trustee area, existing trustee terms, potential alternative sequencing options and the concerns raised by the OVSD board member opposed to the proposal.

Ms. Saltzman provided clarification regarding applicable legal considerations, including Education Code provisions related to incumbents serving out their terms. She noted that sequencing should ensure that two or more trustee areas are not left without representation Ms. Saltzman also addressed information shared regarding the current composition of the district's governing board as it relates to voting patterns in an at-large election and CVRA considerations.

County Committee members also discussed demographic data, including CVAP and electoral outcomes, and noted that demographic data does not guarantee election results and that voting patterns do not necessarily align strictly with ethnicity. Members further observed that the proposed sequencing maintains the existing election cycle of three seats in 2026 and two seats in 2028.

A procedural question was raised regarding the scope of the County Committee's authority and whether it was limited to approval or disapproval of the resolution as presented. Ms. Saltzman confirmed that the County Committee's authority is to approve or disapprove the proposal.

Chairperson Swartz asked if there was a motion from the County Committee on the Resolution Approving the Establishment of Trustee Areas, the Change in the Method of Election to a By-Trustee Area Election Process, and Establishment of Sequence of Elections in the Ocean View School District. Member Marilyn Buchi made a motion to approve the resolution. Member Lauren Brooks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Chairperson Swartz asked to conduct a roll call vote on the motion

AYES: Chairperson Suzie Swartz, Members Lauren Brooks, Marilyn Buchi, Paulette Chaffee, Jackie Filbeck, Karin Freeman, Kathleen Heard, and Kathy Moffat.

NOES: Vice Chairperson David Johnson and Member Randy Reta

ABSENT: Member Sheila Benecke

Motion passed with a vote of 8 to 2, with 1 member absent.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON ANY PROPER MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

No comments from the public.

9. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Marinier reported that a proposal was received for La Habra City School District to change to elections by-trustee area and that staff would be in contact with the County Committee Members to set a public hearing date soon within the boundaries of La Habra City School District.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chairperson Swartz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Member Freeman, seconded by Member Brooks, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.