August 25, 2015

TO: Members of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee)

FROM: Keith D. Crafton, Secretary
County Committee

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the September 2, 2015, Regular Meeting of the County Committee

The regular meeting of the County Committee scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2015, has been CANCELLED. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The following is an update of relevant information as of August 19, 2015.

Staff Activities

Staff has been updating the County Committee website with recent articles related to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

Legislative Updates

Several bills are currently being tracked; updates are attached. (Attachment 1)

School District Organization Proposals

Updated versions of the following two documents are provided for your information:

- “Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals.” (Attachment 2)
- “Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals (excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District).” (Attachment 3)
Please call me at (562) 922-6131 if you have any questions or concerns.

KDC/AD/EH:ah
Attachments
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (COUNTY COMMITTEE) LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2015

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:
Assembly Bill 182 / Alejo

INTRODUCTION DATE:
01/26/15

LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:
07/06/15- Referred to Inactive File by coauthor Hueso

DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require a court to implement specified remedies upon a finding that a district-based election was imposed or applied in a manner that impaired the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice. The bill would also direct a court to implement a redistricting plan if it would provide redress, as well as allow the court to increase the size of the governing body upon approval of voters, and/or approving a single member district-based election system that provides the protected class the opportunity to join in a coalition of two or more protected classes to elect candidates of their choice if there is demonstrated political cohesion among the protected classes.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill would likely result in increased activity related to the California Voting Rights Act, which has had significant impact on school districts statewide.

RECOMMENDED POSITION
Staff recommends the following position:

☑ Watch Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
☐ Approve County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
☐ Support County Committee actively supports the bill.
☐ Oppose County Committee actively opposes the bill.
☐ Disapprove County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would amend the California Voting Rights Act’s definition of “political subdivision” to expressly include a charter city, charter county, or charter city and county. This bill would also state that it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this bill to codify the holding of the state courts regarding the applicability of the CVRA to charter cities.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill would likely not have a large impact on Los Angeles County school districts.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Assembly Bill 278 / Hernandez

INTRODUCTION DATE: 02/11/15


DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require the legislative body of a general law city with a population of 100,000 or more to adopt an ordinance, without voter approval, for the election of the members of the legislative body to be by district.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

It is not yet clear how this bill would impact Los Angeles County School districts. It may trigger increased activity related to the California Voting Rights Act.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
DESCRIPTION OF BILL

Existing law establishes procedures for the reorganization of school districts, including, but not limited to, unifying school districts by consolidating all or part of one or more school districts, as specified. This bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to conduct a study of potential benefits and impacts of school district unification. The bill would specify topics to be included in the study.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

If the study outlined in the bill is conducted by the LAO, it could provide valuable insights for any district, LACOE or the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) in analyzing unification petitions. Much of the bill language focuses on examining the benefits of unification, and that information could be helpful to any school districts considering this move. The County Committee, in its review of unification petitions, is assisted greatly by the availability of neutral analytical information and would likely make great use of the data developed by this study. Further, the County Superintendent of Schools, who serves as the statutory Secretary to the County Committee, may find the information developed by this study to be useful. Another of the points for study emphasized in the bill is the impact of the Local Control Funding Formula on unifications – that issue has been little studied statewide as it has only impacted three districts so far – however, one of those districts is in Los Angeles County (Wiseburn Unified School District).

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch**  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Assembly Bill 803 / Hadley
INTRODUCTION DATE: 02/26/15
LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 04/29/15 – Failed passage at hearing; reconsideration granted

DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would establish separate procedural requirements for an action to form a new school district within the boundaries of a single school district within a single county. This bill would authorize an action to be initiated by a petition signed by at least 10% of the number of qualified electors who voted in the last gubernatorial election and who reside within the boundaries of the proposed school district, or by resolution of a local agency. The bill would require the county board of education to hold a public hearing. [emphasis added]

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill as written could potentially substantially impact the school district organization process.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch**  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would establish a state preclearance system for electoral procedures. Under this system, if a covered political subdivision, as defined, enacts or seeks to administer a voting-related law, policy, or regulation, as specified, that is different from that in force or effect on the date this act is enacted, the governing body of the covered political subdivision would be required to submit the law, regulation, or policy to the Secretary of State for approval. The bill would require the Secretary of State to approve the law, regulation, or policy only if specified conditions are met, and it may not take effect unless approved.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The bill would likely impact districts seeking to change their governance structure and/or voting procedures.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
**BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:**  
Senate Bill 493 / Cannella  

**INTRODUCTION DATE:**  
02/26/15

**LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:**  
08/17/15: Ordered to 3rd reading in Assembly

**DESCRIPTION OF BILL**

This bill would authorize the legislative body of a city to adopt an ordinance that requires the members of the body to be elected by district or by district with an elective mayor without being required to submit the ordinance to the voters for approval.

**POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

It is not yet clear how this bill would impact Los Angeles County School districts. It may trigger increased activity related to the California Voting Rights Act.

**RECOMMENDED POSITION**

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch**  
  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.

- **Approve**  
  County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.

- **Support**  
  County Committee actively supports the bill.

- **Oppose**  
  County Committee actively opposes the bill.

- **Disapprove**  
  County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.

**AMENDMENTS REQUIRED**

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for amendments to the bill language, suggested alternative language is attached.
CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRED

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for correspondence to the bill’s author, the Governor or other governmental officials, a draft of suggested language is attached.

Please direct all comments to Mr. Keith D. Crafton, Secretary to the County Committee at (562) 922-6131.
Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

September 2015

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that were at various stages in the school district organization as of August 19, 2015.

RECENT INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last two years)

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

- None

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- None
Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals
(Excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District)

September 2015

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals [exclusive of those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that are at various stages in the school district reorganization process as of August 19, 2015.]

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

On July 23, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700(a) to unify a Malibu USD from territory that is presently part of the Santa Monica-Malibu USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Seth Jacobson, along with chief petitioners, Manel Sweetmore, and Karen Farrer. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On July 30, 2015, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on July 31, 2015, for circulation.

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: *August 19, 2015

PETITION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN WITHIN THE POMONA USD

On April 8, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5020 to increase the number of trustees from five to seven within the Pomona USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Mr. John Mendoza. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On April 27, 2015, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on April 29, 2015, for circulation.

Please note that this is a separate petition, distinct from the other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, and requests some of the same changes within the Pomona USD (the addition of two governing board members.) It was submitted under EC §5020(c) and, based on the
number of registered voters in the Pomona USD, requires valid signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters within the petition area. If valid and certified by the County Committee, this petition would trigger a vote within the district, before which the County Committee may choose to hold one or more public hearings on the proposal.

Status: Petitioner is gathering signatures.
Status Date: May 26, 2015

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (HSD) AND LAWNDALE SD TO THE WISEBURN USD

On May 15, 2014, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700, to transfer territory from the Centinela Valley Union HSD and the Lawndale SD to the Wiseburn USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Ms. Shavonda Webber-Christmas and Mr. Bill Magoon. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On June 20, 2014, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioners on June 23, 2014.

On October 15, 2014, the chief petitioners submitted signed petitions for review. On October 15, 2014, staff conveyed the signed petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. On November 6, 2014, staff received notice from the Registrar-Recorder that there were insufficient signatures to move the petition forward. Staff notified the chief petitioners, who elected to gather additional signatures. On December 4, 2014, the chief petitioners submitted additional signatures, which were submitted to the Registrar-Recorder on December 5, 2014 for signature verification. On December 22, 2014, the Registrar Recorder notified staff that the additional signatures were validated, and the petition did have sufficient signatures to move forward.

The petition was presented to the County Committee on January 7, 2015. Two public hearings were held March 2, 2015, one in each of the affected districts. A feasibility study was presented on July 8, 2015, at which time the County Committee preliminarily approved the transfer, pending further collection and review of additional fiscal data, as well as an environmental review.

Status: Additional financial review and environmental study currently under way.
Status Date: July 21, 2015

FORMATION—ALTADENA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PASADENA USD)

On January 17, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioners Ms. Maurice Morse, Ms. Shirlee Smith, and Mr. Bruce Wasson, three community members
who are residents of the area known as Altadena. The chief petitioners want to form an Altadena USD from territory within the boundaries of the Pasadena USD. The petition request was returned to the chief petitioners on January 20, 2006, because it lacked an adequate description of the area pursuant to EC §35700.3.

On February 10, 2006, LACOE received a revised request for a petition. Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on February 22, 2006, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on March 6, 2006, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable.

On March 7, 2006, staff forwarded the draft petition to the Registrar-Recorder for verification that the description of the proposed boundaries of the Altadena USD was sufficiently clear (so that registered voters residing within the proposed petition area could be identified with specificity). The Registrar-Recorder confirmed that the description was sufficient on March 10, 2006.

The petition was mailed to the chief petitioners on March 14, 2006, for circulation within the petition area. The Registrar-Recorder estimated the chief petitioners will need to collect approximately 7,000 valid signatures in order to meet the criteria set forth in EC §35700(a).

On September 23, 2010, chief petitioners delivered signed petitions to LACOE. Staff submitted the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder on September 27, 2010, for signature verification. On October 22, 2010, the Registrar-Recorder notified staff that there were insufficient valid signatures (less than the required 25 percent of the registered voters within the petition area). Staff notified the chief petitioners of the insufficiency, and at Mr. Wasson’s request, returned the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for a signature audit. Staff also advised the chief petitioner regarding the collection of additional signatures. Upon notification by the Registrar-Recorder of a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee at the next regular meeting.

On January 4, 2011, staff conferred with a representative from the Registrar-Recorder’s office, who informed us that no audit of petition signatures had been done yet, and they clarified the cost of signature verification. On February 15 and March 1, 2011, staff contacted the Registrar-Recorder and were informed that the signature audit had still not been done. On May 12, 2011, staff from the Registrar-Recorder’s office advised LACOE that an audit of the petition’s signatures was underway. On November 28, 2011, the chief petitioner Mr. Wasson notified LACOE of the death of one of the co-chief petitioners, Ms. Morse. Mr. Wasson stated that another chief petitioner would not be named.

In August of 2014, staff confirmed that petitioner is still interested in collecting additional signatures.

Status: Petition insufficient; chief petitioners may gather additional signatures.
Status Date: December 5, 2011
Cancellation of September 2, 2015 Meeting of the County Committee
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FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: February 21, 2008

FORMATION—LA MIRADA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORWALK – LA MIRADA USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: March 20, 2007

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Hawthorne SD/August 2015

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- *Monrovia USD to Arcadia USD/August 2015
- Glendale USD to La Canada USD/December 2014
- Pasadena USD to La Canada USD/April 2013
- Temple City USD to Arcadia USD/March 2012

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

- *Malibu USD (Santa Monica-Malibu USD)/August 2015

Trustee Areas and Governing Board Size/Last Activity Date

- Pomona USD / June 2015

* = indicates activity since last meeting

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.