

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE-AREAS FOR THE SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATION CODE §5019 *et seq.*

This petition is for the purpose of establishing trustee-area elections for the governing board of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (“SMMUSD”) consistent with the trustee-area map attached as Exhibit 1.

The rationale for establishing trustee-area elections for SMMUSD as stated by the chief petitioners is:

- SMMUSD comprises several distinct neighborhoods differing socially, economically and ethnically. That diversity is, in some ways, a strength of SMMUSD, but it also underscores the importance of all communities being represented.
- At-large elections are well known to dilute the vote of any minority population, while trustee-area elections ensure representation of all communities. Currently, five of seven SMMUSD trustees reside in just one corner of Santa Monica – the wealthiest neighborhood. Historically too, that area has been over-represented on the SMMUSD Board of Trustees, while other neighborhoods, such as the Latino- and African American-concentrated Pico Neighborhood, Mid-City and Malibu have enjoyed almost no representation at all.
- As the Legislature recently confirmed in its unanimous approval of Senate Bill 442 (2021), “campaigning in at-large elections is significantly more expensive than in by-trustee area elections.” Recent campaigns in SMMUSD’s at-large elections have exceeded \$100,000, further disadvantaging candidates from the less-wealthy neighborhoods of Santa Monica.
- Prior to the enactment of Senate Bill 442 (2021), SMMUSD was required to elect its Board of Trustees through at-large elections pursuant to the Charter of the City of Santa Monica. Now, pursuant to Senate Bill 442, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization is empowered to establish trustee-areas for SMMUSD’s elections, regardless of a charter provision adopted 75 years ago which, according to the Los Angeles Superior Court, was adopted to prevent racial minorities from achieving representation.
- By establishing trustee-area elections for SMMUSD, consistent with the trustee-area map attached as Exhibit 1, with Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 electing a trustee in 2022 and every four years thereafter, and Districts 2, 4 and 6 electing a trustee in 2024 and every four years thereafter, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization can ensure that all groups have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, and all groups are fairly represented in the governance of SMMUSD.



TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA:

In accordance with §5019, et seq. of the Education Code, State of California, we, the undersigned, who are at least 500 of the registered electors residing in the territory heretofore described, do hereby file this petition with the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, to establish trustee-area elections for the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, as described herein.

FOR COUNTY USE

NAME (AS REGISTERED)	RESIDENCE ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP			PRECINCT	
1. PRINT NAME BELOW	STREET ADDRESS				
SIGN NAME BELOW	DATE BELOW	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
2. PRINT NAME BELOW	STREET ADDRESS				
SIGN NAME BELOW	DATE BELOW	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
3. PRINT NAME BELOW	STREET ADDRESS				
SIGN NAME BELOW	DATE BELOW	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
4. PRINT NAME BELOW	STREET ADDRESS				
SIGN NAME BELOW	DATE BELOW	CITY	STATE	ZIP	

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CIRCULATOR

I circulated this petition and saw all the appended signatures being written; all the signatures on this section were made in my presence, and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. I am at least eighteen years old.

All signatures to this document were obtained between _____, 20__ and _____, 20__.
Month and Day *Month and Day*

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____ at _____, California
Date *Place of Signing*

Signature of Petition Circulator

Printed Name of Petition Circulator

Residence and voting address:

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

PROPONENT INFORMATION

The undersigned proponents of this petition are registered voters in said district

1. Jennifer deNicola
21649 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90265

Signature and Date

2. Patricia Crane
902 23rd Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Signature and Date