**RESOLUTION NO. 2021- ___**


**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO BY-TRUSTEE AREAS AND THE ADDITION OF TWO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO THE SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Citrus Heights is primarily served by the San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD). SJUSD extends over 75 square miles, has revenues that exceed $300 million, and serves over 50,000 students including students enrolled at nine elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools within the City of Citrus Heights;

**WHEREAS**, SJUSD currently elects trustees using a system that is both at-large and winner-take-all. Election at-large impairs the ability of Ctrus Heights and other communities to identify, support and elect natural leaders from their own neighborhoods;

**WHEREAS**, even though citizens of the City of Citrus Heights represent 24 percent of those registered to vote in San Juan USD elections[1],  the winner-take-all system has deprived the City of representation since the late Estelle Werve left office 19 years ago;

**WHEREAS**, The City of Citrus Heights recognizes the need for a representative on the school board who is accountable to the City's parents and voters and who understands the specific educational needs, resources, and challenges faced by our students;

**WHEREAS**, of the nine unified school districts in California that have larger populations than SJUSD, only San Francisco USD elects trustees at-large (but its board does have seven trustees)[2]; and

**WHEREAS**, only Long Beach USD has a larger population and fewer than seven trustees (but its trustees are elected by area)[3]; and

**WHEREAS,** election of individual trustees by the voters of each trustee area will empower neighborhoods and diverse communities to elect local representatives of their choice, will enable candidates to be competitive without fundraising the prohibitively large sums needed to campaign across the entire district, and will ensure representation of the values of Citrus Heights voters and the needs of its students will always have an accountable representative on the district board.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights supports and requests that SJUSD transition at-large method of election to election by single-trustee areas;

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[1] According to the Sacramento County 202 Statement of the Vote, 46009 of 194854 SJUSD's registered voters live in Citrus Heights.

[2] Elk Grove USD and San Diego City USD elect from trustee areas (*i.e.,* residency requirement), but the voters at-large choose every trustee.

[3] California Department of Education, Largest and Smallest Public School Districts – *CalEdFacts* 2018-19 School Year and individual district websites. (San Diego and Long Beach). In the rest of the nation, Henrico County (Richmond VA) is the only comparably sized school district with fewer than seven trustees.

**BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights requests that SJUSD transition from five to seven trustees by holding a special election in two new trustee areas (including an area in Citrus Heights) this year; and

**BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights requests that the County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") withhold review of any five-trustee map proposed by SJUSD's incumbent trustees until it can be considered in tandem with a seven-trustee option, whether proposed on the Committee's own initiative or by virtue of the voter petition currently being circulated pursuant to Section 5019 of the Education Code[4].

The City Clerk shall certify the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, this 24th day of June 2021 by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**       **Council Members:**
**NOES:**       **Council Members:**
**ABSTAIN:**  **Council Members:**
**ABSENT:**    **Council Members:**

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**Steve Miller, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Amy Van, City Clerk**

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[4] Education Code, §5019(c) allows proposals for changes in the size and election method of a district board to be considered on the County Committee's own initiative and requires the County Committee to consider proposals made by the district board or by voter petition. Such a petition is currently circulating.