

## **GRAND JURY REPORT CALLS FOR CHANGE TO SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS** *Recommendations include district elections and term limits to be included in City Charter*

San Diego, CA: In response to several citizen complaints, the San Diego County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) investigated the election process of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) School Board Trustees.

As stated in the report, the Grand Jury believes that “sub-district elections alone would assure that specific concerns of each region are represented, and recommends that all SDUSD school board trustee candidates be elected only from within their home sub-district.” Additionally, the Grand Jury believes that “a long, uninterrupted service by a single member of the school board does not effectively serve the district's students and recommends that the San Diego City Charter be amended to include term limits for the SDUSD Board of Trustees.”

On February 28, 2017, Councilmembers Cate, Kersey, Zapf, and Sherman issued a four-person Memorandum imposing term limits and district specific elections for Board members of the San Diego Unified School District:

[https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/170228\\_proposed\\_amendments\\_to\\_city\\_charter\\_article\\_vi\\_section\\_66.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/170228_proposed_amendments_to_city_charter_article_vi_section_66.pdf)

On March 21, 2017, the item came before the full City Council and failed, 5-4.

“While I was disappointed my council colleagues denied San Diego voters the opportunity to vote on election rules for school board members that would bring consistency with the way we elect other local public officials, the Grand Jury’s report provides an opportunity for this important issue to be reviewed and addressed,” stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), (c), requires the City of San Diego to respond to the Grand Jury’s report within 60 days with the following:

- Whether the City agrees or disagrees with the Grand Jury’s findings
- A status update on implementation of the Grand Jury’s recommendations

“I look forward to hearing this item discussed at an upcoming Rules Committee meeting and I am hopeful that ultimately, school board members will be held accountable to the majority of the people they represent,” said Councilmember Chris Cate.

View the San Diego County Grand Jury’s report here:

<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/grandjury/reports/2016-2017/SchoolBoardElectionsReport.pdf>