

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA**

Opposing SB 907 (Newman) Regarding Orange County Board of Education

February 7, 2024

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE) has five trustees who are elected by registered voters in unique districts every two years in the Spring like many other county boards are elected; and

WHEREAS, of the 58 counties in the state of California, 53 of them have county boards of education and 60% or 31 of these boards have five sitting trustees while only 40% or 22 have more than five; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County is the most populated county in California with approximately 10 million residents and their board of education is not elected at all but rather appointed by the five member Los Angeles Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, of the 31 counties that have five elected trustees, included are the major county population centers of Contra Costa, Fresno, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Ventura, and more...; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has experienced a net reduction in population in the last two years of -34,352 representing a loss, the equivalent of more than the cities of Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, La Palma, Los Alamitos, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, or Villa Park; and

WHEREAS, the California Senate Appropriations Committee has found that costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars would be incurred for the Orange County Registrar to add OCBE candidates to November election ballots resulting from adding an extra ballot card to presidential election cycle ballots to accommodate the additional contests, plus there will be significant information technology programming costs, and substantial staff time to make related changes; and

WHEREAS, the current five OCBE trustees have a direct cost budget (stipends and health benefits) for five of \$175,000 or \$35,000 each and therefore adding two more trustees would cost taxpayers at least an additional \$700,000 over the next decade at a time when local education budgets are being cut and California faces a \$68 billion budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, the OCBE has consistently supported parents' rights, school choice, and charter school development and thereby are standing up to those that seek to thwart the charter school movement in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, SB 286 in 2022 was a substantially similar bill seeking to reconfigure the election of OCBE failed passage; and

WHEREAS, the apparent objective of SB 907 is to add Charter School opponents to the OCBE and reconfigure it into a board that does not support choice in education; and

WHEREAS, ballot placement, length, and complexity are all known to have a direct impact on how and if people actually vote their ballots; and

WHEREAS, November general election ballots in California are often quite complex with large numbers of propositions, initiatives, and referenda in addition to federal, state, county, and municipal elections resulting in voter fatigue with a significant under-count for long ballots with local non-partisan office races at the end; and

WHEREAS, the OCBE has historically experienced motivated voters who are enthusiastic to vote their preferences for education leaders in the County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The OCBE hereby opposes SB 907, and the attempt to reconfigure the board with anti-choice activists who seek to eliminate Charter School development.
2. The OCBE does not support adding hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs taxpayers must fund to reconfigure the board, change its election process, and add additional trustees.
3. The OCBE, like 30 other counties in California, believes it has more than adequate representation of its constituents and no problems have been identified or brought forward to the OCBE that would indicate otherwise.
4. Finally, in an era where Orange County's population is decreasing, it makes no sense to expand elected government bodies for purposes of improving representation.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED *this 7th day of February 2024 at a regular meeting of the Orange County Board of Education.*

Adopted by the Orange County Board of Education on February 7, 2024.

AYES:	4
NOS:	0
ABSENT:	1

State of California, County of Orange

I, Tim Shaw, President of the Board of Education of Orange County, California, hereby certify the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held the 7th day of February 2024 and was passed by a vote of (4 to 0) of said members present.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal on the 7th day of February 2024.

Tim Shaw

Tim Shaw, President
Orange County Board of Education

