



**Soledad Community**  
HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLEDAD COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHANGING FROM AT-LARGE TO BY-ZONE  
DIRECTOR ELECTIONS COMMENCING IN NOVEMBER 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the Soledad Community Health Care District is a California health care district duly organized and existing under the Local Health Care District Law, Division 23 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, Health and Safety Code § 32000 et seq; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of the Board of Directors of the Soledad Community Health Care District (“District”) are currently elected in “at-large” elections, i.e., elections in which each board member is elected by the registered voters of the entire Soledad Community Health Care District; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code § 32100.1 and Elections Code §10010 authorizes the District to establish by-Zone election; and

**WHEREAS**, the term “by Zones,” ... means election of the directors by voters of the Zone alone” (Health and Safety Code § 32100.1 et. seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, under certain circumstances Elections Code § 10650 authorizes the Board of Directors by resolution to change the method of election to by-Zone elections without being required to submit the resolution to the voters for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Voting Rights Act (“CVRA”) states that it was enacted to implement the guarantees of Section 7 of Article I and of Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution and Soledad Community Health Care District believes that its current electoral system is consistent with Section 7 of Article I and Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution, and resulted in the election of candidates including a member of a protected class, who were the chosen candidates of voters who are also members of a protected class as defined in the CVRA; and

**WHEREAS**, litigation under the CVRA is very expensive, and if the defendant loses, it is required to pay the plaintiff’s reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, which in most cases to date have been significantly over a million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Legislature, in amendments to Elections Code §§ 10010 and 10650, provided a method whereby a special district can change to a by-Zone election system and be protected from litigation under the CVRA if it acts within particular timeframes; and

**WHEREAS**, changing to a by-Zone electoral system pursuant to Elections Code § 10010 would avoid the extraordinary cost to defend against a CVRA lawsuit, even if the District were to prevail in that action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Soledad Community Health Care District believes that a by-Zone electoral system can also be consistent with Section 7 of Article I and Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution and for that reason wishes to take advantage of the protections provided by Elections Code § 10010 and 10650; and

**WHEREAS**, to take advantage of the protection from litigation provided by Elections Code §§ 10010 and 10650, at its regular meeting on July 31, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2025-08, formally initiating the process of changing the District's method of election to "by-Zone" elections, and thereafter retained a qualified demographic consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, Elections Code § 10010 requires five public hearings in connection with the change to by-Zone elections and special notice periods for draft maps; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 2025 and September 25, 2025, pursuant to California Elections Code § 10010(a)(1), the Board held public hearings where the public was invited to provide input regarding the composition of the Director Zones before any draft maps were drawn; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 16, 2025, the District made public map draft Director Zone plans and a proposed sequencing of elections in each plan, prepared by its demographic consultant, which were posted on the District's website at <http://www.soledadcommunityhealthcaredist.org/>; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 23, 2025 and November 20, 2025, respectively, pursuant to California Elections Code § 10010(a)(2), public hearings were held where the public was invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft maps that had been published at least seven (7) days before the meetings, and the proposed sequence of elections, and the Board considered and discussed the same; and

**WHEREAS**, the District engaged in public outreach and engagement as suggested by California Elections Code § 10010(a)(1); and

**WHEREAS**, at its January 22, 2026 regular public meeting, the Board of Directors held a fifth public hearing after which it adopted the **Magenta** Map and sequence of elections published therewith; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors will adjust the boundaries of the Director Zones in accordance with Elections Code § 22000 upon receipt of the 2031 Census tabulations and in connection with that process, members of the public will have additional opportunities to comment on the configuration of the director Zones in the **Magenta** Map.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:**

**SECTION 1. RECITALS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.**

The above recitals are true and correct and form the basis of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.**

The purpose of this Resolution is, pursuant to California Elections Code section 10010, to change the method for the election of members of the Board of Directors of the Soledad Community Health Care District from at-large to by-Zone in five (5) single- member Zones commencing with the 2026 elections for Board of Directors, and thereafter until changed in accordance with law. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the District's authority under California Elections Code § 10010 and California Elections Code § 10650.

**SECTION 3. BY-ZONE ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR FIVE DIRECTORS.**

Pursuant to California Elections Code §§ 10010 and 10650, and except as provided in Section 5(a), below, Directors shall be elected by-Zones in five (5) Zones as that term is defined in California **Health and Safety** Code section **32100** meaning one member of the Zone shall be elected from each Zone, by the voters of that Zone alone commencing with the general District election in November 2026; directors elected by-Zone shall be voters of the Zones by which they are elected.

**SECTION 4. ZONES.**

(a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section, the Zones shall be as reflected in the map attached hereto as Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

(b) In accordance with Elections Code § 22000, after release of the 2031 Census tabulations the Chief Executive Officer shall cause the map to be reviewed for compliance with all applicable laws including requirements for relatively equal population in the Zones and the federal Voting Rights Act.

(c) If the map is not in compliance with law, the Chief Executive Officer shall propose to the Board of Directors a process and timeline for making such adjustments to the Zone boundaries as may be necessary to bring the map into compliance with law. Any such adjustments shall be made in accordance with Elections Code § 21100 et seq.

(d) If necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution, the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee is authorized to make technical adjustments to the Zone boundaries that do not substantively affect the populations in the Zones or the eligibility of candidates. The Chief Executive Officer shall consult with the District General Counsel concerning any technical adjustments deemed necessary and shall advise the Board of Directors of any such adjustments required in the implementation of the Zones.

(e) The Zones specified in subsection (b) shall continue in effect until they are amended or repealed in accordance with law.

## **SECTION 5. TERM OF OFFICE AND ELECTIONS**

(a) A Director in office at the time this resolution takes effect shall continue in office until the expiration of the full term to which he or she was elected or appointed and until his or her successor is qualified. If vacancies in Director offices elected at-large occur before expiration of the full term thereof, such vacancies may be filled according to law from the District at-large.

(b) Upon expiration of the full term of each Director elected at-large, that Director's successor shall be elected only on a by-Zone basis in the Zones established by this Resolution, as may be modified in accordance with Section 4(c) of this Resolution. A vacancy in a Director office elected or appointed by-Zone shall be filled according to law by a person qualified to hold the office, who lives, and is a registered voter, in the Zone.

(c) In November 2026, Directors shall be elected for Zones **1 & 3**.

(d) In November 2028, Directors shall be elected for Zones **2, 4, & 5**.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (a) hereof, the Director elected to represent a Zone must live in that Zone and be a registered voter in that Zone, and any candidate for Director must live in and be a registered voter in, the Zone in which he or she seeks election at the time nomination papers are issued, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 32100.1 and California Elections Code § 10227.

## **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION FROM CEQA.**

The Board of Directors finds that the actions taken in this Resolution are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, § 15061(b)(3) because it can be said with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

## **SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. The Board of Directors of the Soledad Community Health Care District hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section or subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

**SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION.**

The Chief Executive Officer is authorized and directed to establish appropriate administrative procedures consistent with the provisions of this resolution and to take reasonable and appropriate action to fully implement the provisions of this resolution.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the **Soledad Community Health Care** District, a public agency in the State of California, **Soledad**, at its regular meeting held on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** day of **January 2026**, by the following vote:

AYES: Anne Trebino, Rosemary Guidotti, Ken Klemme, Graig Stephens

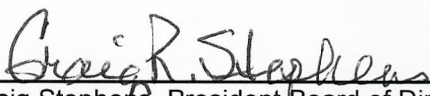
NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Maria Schell

**APPROVED: Passed**

**ATTEST:None**

  
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Graig Stephens, President Board of Directors

**EXHIBIT A**

The Chief Executive Officer is authorized and directed to take such appropriate administrative procedure consistent with the provisions of this resolution and to take reasonable and appropriate action to fully implement the provisions of this resolution.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Solihull Community Health Care District, a public agency in the State of California, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Anne Tieding, Rosemary Gudek, Ken Klamma, Greg Stephens

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Matt Stahl

APPROVED: Passed

ATTEST: None

  
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Greg Stephens, President, Board of Directors