

Act 46 and the Union School District Formation Process

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Union School District Formation Process

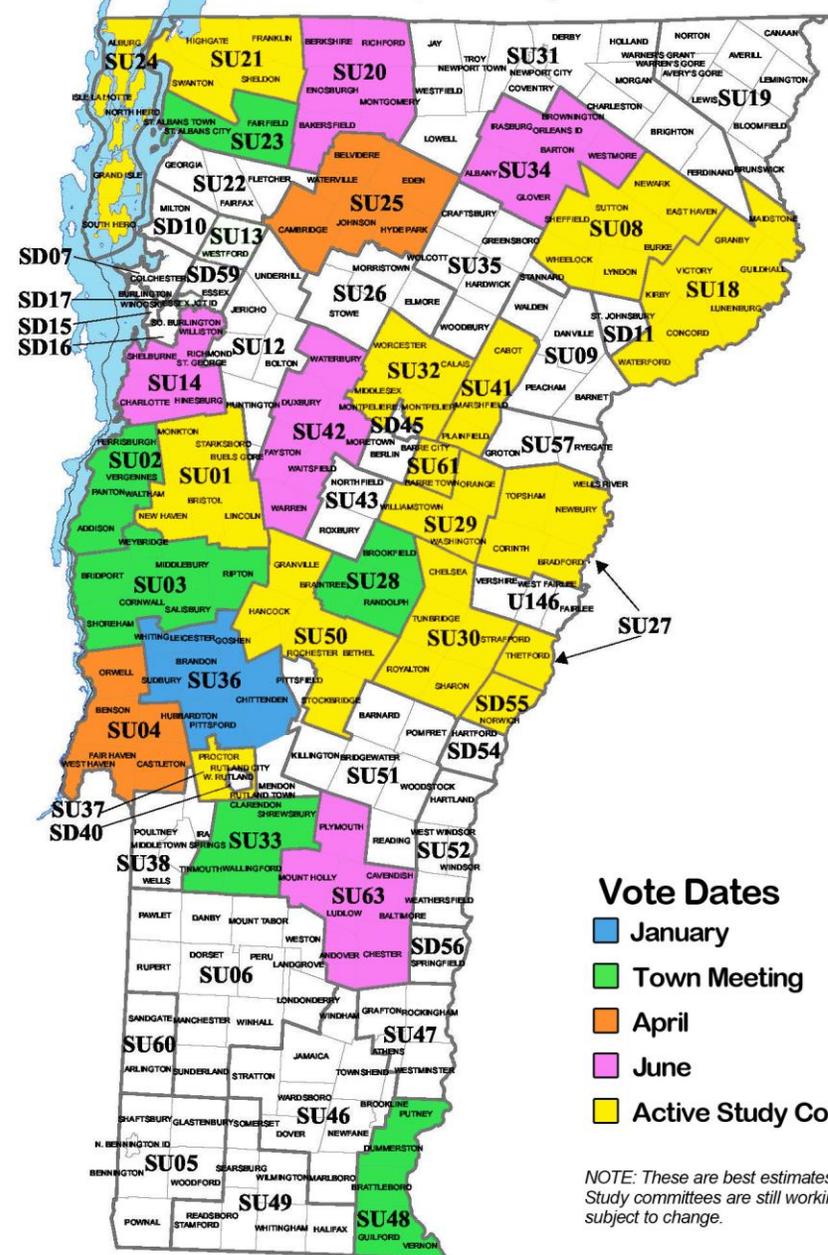
- Act 46 provides for the formation of union school districts using the same law that has been on the books since 1967
 - This process is outlined in Chapter 11 of Title 16
 - Act 46 creates new incentives for union districts that are formed by specific deadlines in 2016 and 2017

Likely Union District Votes in 2016

NOTE: These are **best estimates** as of 11/30/15.

Study committees are still working and dates are subject to change.

Vermont Supervisory Unions



- Vote Dates**
- January
 - Town Meeting
 - April
 - June
 - Active Study Committees

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Union District Formation Process

- Create a study committee: (16 VSA 701 & 706)
 - Each participating district board must vote to establish the committee and appoint representatives
- Prepare a study committee report: (16 VSA 706b)
 - “The study committee may determine that it is inadvisable to form a union school district or it may prepare a report in the form of an agreement between member districts for the government of the proposed union school district.” 16 VSA 706b(b)
 - The report will include:
 - Articles of Agreement that will govern new merged district
 - The date of the vote
 - The composition of the new merged district’s board, including terms of office

Union District Formation Process

- Once the study committee's report is complete, it is submitted to proposed member district boards for review and comment and is then sent to the Agency of Education for comment and State Board of Education (SBE) for approval. (16 VSA 706c)
- If the SBE approves the report, the proposal goes to the electorate on the date set in the report; **the vote MUST be by Australian ballot**, at separate school district meetings held on the same day and during the same hours (16 VSA 706d). The required contents of the warning are spelled out in 16 VSA 706f.

Union District Formation Process

- At the same election, the voters shall also elect directors by Australian ballot to represent the district on the union school board in the event the union is approved by the voters. (16 VSA 706e)
- The clerk of each district voting on the proposal to establish a union school district is responsible for certifying the results of the vote with the Secretary of *Education*. (16 VSA 706g)

Act 46 Budget Warning Requirements

- Section 33 of Act 46 requires the warning for a school district's proposed budget to:
 - State the total budget in terms of per equalized pupil spending and
 - The percentage increase or decrease of per equalized pupil spending compared to the previous year

Questions?

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