

The Village Green Owners Association

Rules for the Election and Removal of Directors by Secret Ballot

In connection with the election and removal of directors, the following rules and procedures shall apply:

1. Meeting at Which Secret Ballots Shall Be Tabulated.

- 1.1 The inspectors of election or their designee (s) shall tabulate the ballots for the election of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the owners or, if a quorum is required by the governing documents and no quorum is present, at a special meeting of the Board of Directors duly noticed for the same date, time and place, as the annual meeting called for the purpose of counting ballots. The Board of Directors shall determine the date, time and place of said annual meeting of the owners and the concurrent special meeting of the Board in accordance with the Association's Bylaws.
- 1.2 The qualifications for voting and the voting power of each membership are as stated in the Association's governing documents and as shall be determined in accordance with Section 3.3.1 hereof.
- 1.3 The voting period for elections shall be at least thirty (30) days. The polls shall open and close as stated on the secret ballot distributed for each election.

2. Nomination of Candidates.

- 2.1 At least sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting at which the ballots for the election of directors are to be counted, the Association shall mail to each owner a Candidate Nomination Form.
- 2.2 According to the Association's Bylaws, the qualification(s) to serve on the Association's Board of Directors are that such persons must be members of the Association and must not be delinquent in any financial obligation to the Association at the time of their election and throughout their term of office.
- 2.3 Owners may nominate themselves or another person; provided, however, all candidates must meet the qualifications set forth in the Section 2.2.
- 2.4 Any candidate nominated by another person will be contacted to confirm that such candidate consents to having his or her name placed in nomination for election to the Board.
- 2.5 All candidates who meet the qualifications to serve on the Board and, if appropriate, have confirmed their willingness to run for election to the Board, shall be listed on the secret ballot if their candidate nomination form is received by the date stated on the form.

2.6 The Candidate Nomination Form must be returned to the Association at the address provided on, and by the deadline stated on, such form, which deadline must be at least forty-five (45) days before the date the ballots for the election of directors are scheduled to be counted.

3. **Inspectors of Election.**

3.1 The Board shall appoint three independent third parties as inspectors of election after the close of candidate nominations but before the secret ballots are mailed to all of the owners. An independent third party includes, but is not limited to:

3.1.1 a volunteer poll worker with the county registrar of voters;

3.1.2 a licensee of the California Board of Accountancy;

3.1.3 a notary public;

3.1.4 a member of the Association provided such member is not a member of the Board of Directors or a candidate for the Board of Directors or related to a member of the Board of Directors or a candidate for the Board of Directors; and,

3.1.5 a person who is currently employed or under contract to the Association for any compensable services.

3.2 Prior to the secret ballots being mailed to all of the owners, the inspectors of election shall meet to determine to whom the secret ballots shall be returned (the Ballot Collector), which may be the Association's property manager, if any.

3.3 The inspectors of election shall also do all of the following:

3.3.1 determine the number of memberships entitled to vote and the voting power of each.

3.3.2 determine the authenticity, validity, and effect of proxies, if any;

3.3.3 receive ballots;

3.3.4 hear and determine all challenges and questions in any way arising out of or in connection with the right to vote;

3.3.5 count and tabulate all votes;

3.3.6 determine when the polls shall close;

- 3.3.7 determine the result of the election;
 - 3.3.8 perform any acts as may be proper to conduct the election with fairness to all members in accordance with this section, the Corporations Code and all applicable rules of the Association regarding the conduct of the election that are not in conflict with this section.
 - 3.4 An inspector of election shall perform his or her duties impartially, in good faith, to the best of his or her ability, and as expeditiously as is practical. The decision or act of a majority shall be effective in all respects as the decision or act of all.
 - 3.5 Any report made by the inspector or inspectors of election is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the report.
 - 3.6 The Board may remove and replace any inspector of election prior to the tabulation of ballots if an inspector of election resigns or if the Board reasonably determines that an inspector of election will not be able to perform his or her duties impartially and in good faith.
 - 3.7 The inspectors of election may appoint and oversee additional persons to verify signatures and to count and tabulate votes as the inspectors of election deem appropriate, provided that the additional persons are independent third parties as defined herein.
4. **Secret Ballot Procedure: Record Date.**
- 4.1 Ballots and two pre-addressed envelopes with instructions on how to return ballots shall be mailed by first-class mail or delivered by the Association to every member not less than 30 days prior to the deadline for voting.
 - 4.2 Ballots must ensure the confidentiality of the voters.
 - 4.2.1 A voter may not be identified by name or unit number on the ballot;
 - 4.2.2 The ballot may not require the signature of the voter;
 - 4.2.3 The ballot itself is inserted into an envelope that is sealed. This envelope is inserted into a second envelope that is sealed. In the upper left hand corner of the second envelope, the voter prints and signs his or her name, address, or unit number that entitles him or her to vote. The second envelope is addressed to the inspectors of election, who will be tallying the votes.

4.3 Owners may return their secret ballot by mail, hand deliver it to the

closing meeting or complete the ballot at the meeting; provided, only those ballots which are delivered to the inspectors of election prior to the polls shall be counted.

4.4 A member may request a receipt for delivery of his or her ballot.

4.5 The record date for purposes of voting shall be the date the ballots are mailed to all of the owners.

5. **Campaigning.**

5.1 All candidates or members advocating a point of view during a campaign, including those not endorsed by the Board, shall be provided equal access to Association media, newsletters, or Internet Web sites (if any) for purposes that are reasonably related to the election. The Association may not edit or redact any content from these communications, but may include a statement specifying that the candidate or member, and not the Association, is responsible for that content.

5.2 All candidates, including those who are not incumbents, and all members advocating a point of view, including those not endorsed by the Board, for purposes reasonably related to the election, shall be provided equal access to any common area meeting space, if any exists, during a campaign at no cost.

6. **Handling of Ballots.**

6.1 As secret ballots are returned to the Ballot Collector, the Ballot Collector shall check off on a sign-in sheet that a ballot has been received for such unit. The inspectors of election may verify the member's information and signature on the outer envelope prior to the meeting at which the ballots are tabulated. Once a secret ballot is received by the inspectors of election, it shall be irrevocable. Any subsequent ballots received for the same unit shall be deemed invalid and shall be discarded.

6.2 The sealed ballots at all times shall be in the custody of the inspectors of election or at a location designated by the inspectors until delivered to the inspectors at the meeting for the opening of the ballots and the tabulation of the vote. After the counting of the ballots and the certification of the election results by the inspectors of election, the ballots shall be transferred to the Association.

6.3 No person, including a member of the Association or an employee of the management company, shall open or otherwise review any ballot prior to

the time and place at which the ballots are counted and tabulated.

- 6.4 After the tabulation of the vote and for nine months after the election or

removal, election ballots shall be kept in the custody of the inspectors of election. After such time, the custody shall be stored by the Association in a secure place for no less than one year after the date of the election or removal. In the event of a recount or other challenge to the election process, the inspectors of election shall, upon written request, make the ballots available for inspection and review by members or their authorized representatives. Any recount shall be conducted in a manner that shall preserve the confidentiality of the vote.

7. **Tabulation of Votes: Quorum Requirement.**

7.1 All votes shall be counted and tabulated by the inspectors of election or their designee(s) in public at a properly noticed open meeting of the members or of the Board. A quorum of members or a quorum of Board members, as the case may be, must be present as required by the Association's governing documents. Each ballot received by the inspectors of election shall be treated as a member present at a meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum.

7.2 The inspectors of election shall confirm that no more than one ballot was returned for each unit.

7.3 Any candidate or other member of the Association may witness the counting and tabulation of the votes.

7.4 In order for the vote for the election of directors to be valid, ballots must be returned by at least a quorum of the owners as required by the Association's governing documents.

8. **Announcement of Results.**

8.1 The results of the election shall be promptly reported to the Board of Directors and shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors and shall be available for review by members of the Association.

8.2 Upon certification of the election results by the inspectors of election, the newly elected Board members shall be deemed to have taken office.

8.3 Within 15 days of the election, the Board shall publicize the results of the Election in a communication directed to all members.

9. **Other Voting/Campaign Issues.**

9.1 There are 629 units in the Association, but owners whose voting

rights have been suspended in accordance with the Association's governing documents after notice and hearing shall not be entitled to vote.

- 9.2 Cumulative voting is not permitted by the Association's governing documents.
- 9.3 Association funds may not be used for "campaign purposes" in with any board election. The term "campaign purposes" is defined to include, without limitation, (1) "expressly advocating the election or defeat" of any candidate that is on the ballot; or (2) "including the photograph or prominently featuring the name of a candidate on a communication" from the Association (except the ballot and voting materials and equal access communications sent pursuant to the Section, above, entitled "Campaigning").
- 9.4 Proxies. Proxies may continue to be used to meet the quorum requirement for an annual meeting. Additional, an owner may give a proxy to another person to vote on the Secret Ballot as his/her its proxy as permitted by the Bylaws. However, proxies shall not be construed or used in lieu of a secret ballot. In such a situation, the proxyholder will fill out the ballot and enclose it in the "secret ballot" envelope. This envelope will then be enclosed in the second envelope, as discussed above. In the upper left hand corner of the second envelope, the proxyholder will sign his or her name, indicate his or her name and indicate the address or unit entitles the owner to vote; however, as the "voter", the proxyholder will sign and print his/her name underneath the name and address of the owner. The proxy must be returned with the ballot, but NOT placed inside the "secret ballot" envelope. If any instruction is given in a proxy issued for an election (or other vote) that directs the manner in which the proxyholder is to cast the vote, such instructions shall be set forth on a separate page of the proxy that can be detached and given to the proxyholder to retain. A proxy may be revoked by the owner prior to the receipt of the secret ballot by the inspectors of election.