



ROBE

Residents for Open
Board Elections

February 29, 2016

Dear Members of the PVHA Board of Directors,

We share with you the objective that the next Election for PVHA Directors proceeds as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and also the objective to elicit enough interest to reach a quorum -- which hasn't happened since 2009.

To achieve those goals, we suggest the PVHA issues a clear written process so that there are no surprises, that there will be a single ballot, and most importantly that steps are taken to achieve a quorum and provide a suitable mandate to the Board. Attached are some ideas that you might consider incorporating.

In order to reach a quorum, we have the following suggestions:

- Go back to three mailings rather than one, and start the process earlier so that the ballots are not lost in the holiday mail and distractions that are inevitable that time of year. In the past, our understanding is that the number of mailings was one of the factors affecting the total number of ballots received. You may also consider changing your vendor for the mailing in order to save money. ROBE did its mailing for less than half of the \$12,000 that PVHA told us it spent per mailing.

- Include with the ballot a document with short bios (250 words or less) on each candidate and a photo. The PV Golf Club uses this approach, and it is likely to stimulate submission of more completed ballots

- Eliminate the prospect of multiple ballots through a defined process such as the attached strawman. This will expedite verification and reduce disqualifications for illegible addresses
- Host at least one forum where the public can meet the candidates and ask questions. Ask a third party from the press to moderate the forum and ask questions

- Publicize in the local paper the importance of voter involvement and achieving a quorum
- Publicize the election by postings on NextDoor, encouraging voter involvement to achieve a quorum

- Email reminders. If the PVHA develops an email notification list similar to the City's list, then this could also be used to send notices and reminders about the election, and encourage participation

- Consider implementing an online voting option

We hope that doing things differently in the election will help achieve a quorum. But one other idea may be for PVHA to petition the court to have the 50% quorum reduced to something more achievable such as 25%. In the last PVE municipal election, voter turnout was only 19%, so 50% is an extraordinarily high hurdle. We understand that the courts can implement a lowering of quorums

especially when the mechanism of changing the by-laws is even harder to do since that requires a two-thirds vote.

Our group of concerned PVE residents sincerely hopes that our input will be helpful to you in achieving a quorum at the next annual meeting. If you'd like to discuss any of these ideas, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Steering Committee for ROBE:

Don Culler
Barbara Culver
Dick Fay
Ruth Gralow
Rick Higgins
Dave Kleinman
Renata Harbison
John Harbison
Ann Hinchliffe
Jennifer Laity
Cathy Melton
Mike Moody
Bill Patton
Mike Wratschko
Ried Schott
George Winston

Palos Verdes Homes Association – Suggested Election Process

The following process description applies to the election of Board Directors.

1. **Date of Election.** Second Tuesday of January. (By-Laws, Art. V, § 1).
2. **Method of Nomination of Candidates for Directors.** By petition signed by at least 100 members and delivered to any member of the Board. (Corp. Code, 7521, subd. (b)).
3. **Time for Nomination of Candidates for Directors.** The PVHA will set a deadline for accepting petitions that is before the date of the planned first mailing by a sufficient number of days that those being nominated can be included in the ballot materials. That deadline date would be at least 50 days before the election (Corp. Code, § 7522 (a)). Further, Petitions need to be delivered to any Board member no earlier than 11 months before the election (Corp. Code, § 7521, subd. (b))s The last day that petitions will be accepted will be posted at least 45 days in advance of that deadline. If these deadlines are not met, there will be no provision for write-in candidates or alternate ballots.
4. **Inspector of Elections.** An Inspector of Elections will be appointed by the Board no later than 60 days before the election to rule on all election matters, including the matter of nomination of candidates, preparation and mailing of the ballots and counting ballots
5. **Mailing of Ballots.** The Association will mail ballots as many as three times before the election (except to those members who have already submitted completed ballots prior to the second and third mailings). The first mailing will occur no earlier than September 1, and that date will be posted. The last mailing will occur no later than December 1. The Association’s mailings will afford all candidates the opportunity for a short biography and photograph to be included with the ballot.
6. **Irrevocable Ballot Casting.** Once a completed ballot has been received by PVHA, that member cannot revoke the ballot for that year’s election.
7. **Custody of Ballots.** The Inspector of Elections will maintain custody of the ballots or they will be maintained at his direction.
8. **Voting Results.** The results of the election will be counted regardless of whether a quorum is met and will be announced at the Annual Meeting and posted on the Association’s website.