

PPCC Election Committee Report – 2016

The Committee is pleased to announce that the following are the newly elected Area and At-large Representatives to the PPCC board, beginning October 1, 2016:

Area 1:	Katie Braude	Area 6:	David Kaplan
Area 2:	Peter Culhane	Area 7:	Cathy Russell
Area 3:	Danielle Samulon	Area 8:	Reza Akef
Area 4:	Rick Mills	At-large:	Lou Kamer
Area 5:	Sue Kohl		

We had the largest voter turnout in PPCC history, with 1237 total valid ballots. This is almost twice the number of votes in the 2014 election, and many hundreds of votes more than any other Westside council that held elections in 2016 (except for Venice). We commend all the candidates and thank the Palisades community for participating in record numbers.

With this report we are also distributing a Results data sheet which includes the vote counts. A few words about the Committee's vote-counting process are in order: 4 of the 5 Committee members were present (Michael Soneff could not attend due to work commitments; PPCC Chair Maryam Zar did not attend). Each questionable ballot was inspected by every member of the Committee individually and discussed by the group. Every decision concerning each ballot was unanimous and decisions were based strictly on the bylaws. After initial ballot qualification determinations were made the entire group reviewed all decisions at least once (or more) again. The bylaws were scrupulously followed and all decisions were entirely impartial and unanimous.

It is important to recognize that the disqualification of votes due to duplication narrowed the margin of victory in all races but ***did not change the outcome***. This result was fortuitous but the Committee was fully prepared to follow the bylaws to whatever outcome the rules dictate.

Based on the experience of this election and having received several constructive suggestions for improvement, the Committee recommends for future board consideration the following possible bylaws changes or other actions:

- Eliminating paper ballots and moving entirely to online voting.
- Eliminating the "one vote per household for area rep" rule.
- Alternatively, revising the current rule (which requires *all votes per household* to be disqualified if more than one person votes for area rep) to allow one vote per household to be counted if all votes in the household were for the same candidate.
- Strengthening voting instructions to put greater stress on the consequences of failure to follow those instructions.
- Providing for assistance to residents who request help in accessing online voting.
- "De-coupling" voting by residents for area rep and at-large rep.
- Specifying that only adults (18 years of age and older) may vote in the election.
- Establishing reasonable guidelines for the conduct of election campaigns.

Congratulations to the newly elected representatives!

*PPCC Election Committee
Chris Spitz, Committee Chair; Richard Cohen,
Susan Payne, Michael Soneff, George Wolfberg
September 8, 2016*