

Tab 10

Status of Electronic Voting

July 27, 2021

BACKGROUND:

At the April Board Meeting, the LHCC Board of Directors approved exploring electronic voting and electronic communications as options for the 2021 election. The Nominating Committee reviewed several electronic voting platforms keeping in mind ease of use, security, auditability, cost, and other factors related to our requirements. The Committee selected Election Buddy as being the best fit for our requirements.

PROGRESS SINCE MAY BOARD MEETING:

1. We set up a sample election with Election Buddy and had the Board members try it out. We got very favorable feedback from the Board members who tried it. The main issue we had was that some of the emails with voting credentials went to Spam/Other folders so people had to go looking for them. We will advise the community to add invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com to their email contacts if they are requesting electronic voting. This should minimize that problem.
2. We ran an article in the July Newsletter explaining the advantages of electronic communications and electronic voting. We told the Members to be on the lookout for information telling them how they can participate in these electronic options.
3. We have been working closely with the TechComm Committee to coordinate using the LHCC website to collect necessary information from members who wish to use electronic communication and electronic voting. This is now part of a larger TechComm initiative to collect updated contact information for all community members. We have also:
 - a. Prepared paper update forms for those that are uncomfortable with responding on the website
 - b. Prepared a flyer and update form to be sent to all owners in the July 23rd "Call for Candidates" mailing. While owners can update their information at any time, if they want to vote electronically, they must submit their information no later than August 31st.
4. TechComm has built the online versions of the update forms and we are preparing to publicize "The 2021 Lake Holiday Voting & Communication Preferences Drive" using posters, emails, and the Facebook pages.
5. We drafted recommended revisions to PRP 16 to address electronic voting. These are included in another Tab for this Board Meeting.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Finalize the online forms and launch our publicity campaign to encourage everyone to give us their current information and communication/voting preferences.
2. After the 8/31 deadline for signing up for electronic voting has passed, we will create the voter database to be loaded into Election Buddy.
3. After the 9/8 deadline for candidate biographies has passed, we will finalize the electronic ballots to include the candidates and any proposed Bylaw changes to be voted on.
4. On September 17th, when the hardcopy election mailing goes out to those who want paper communications, Election Buddy will send emails to all voters who have requested electronic voting. The electronic voting will be open from September 17th until October 21st (the deadline for Absentee ballots).

SPONSOR: The LHCC Nominating Committee; Betka Hardgrave, Board Liaison