

Letters to Vail

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Vail's First Mail-in Ballot Election

December 27, 2021

For a long time, VHA has encouraged mail-in voting. We reached that goal this year when the Town of Vail 2021 election became the first mail-in county/town balloting to elect TOV council members and raise local taxes. Reports, show that the results represent one of the highest voter participation rates on record and validates the thinking of your Vail Homeowners Association's Board of Directors and administration.

Mail-in balloting increases voter participation. The door is now open to give part-time residents a more compelling reason to change their primary voting residency to Vail. It offers a voting option to cyber commuters and retirees who are no longer tied to their original residences.

The outcome also provides a background for serious discussions about balloting and campaign ethics.

For example, the State of Colorado's on-line voting system permits US nationals living abroad and the military to cast ballots on line. Should registered voters in Vail and Eagle County have privileges equivalent to US citizens living abroad? Expanding online-voting will permit registered Vail voters, who are migratory, to vote whether at home or on the road at election time.

Elections are now won and lost by narrow margins with the internet playing a critical role in determining results. Analysis of our recent election and campaigning shows strong support for the Association's initiatives and strategies. VHA's communication network is influencing public discussion of the issues. The loyalty of VHA members and readers is strong and sustained. Subscriptions are on the rise. The foundation supporting the content and frequency of communications with VHA constituents is stronger.

Advantage should be taken to further VHA's agenda in preparation for the next mail-in ballot election. Fair campaign and election practices should be discussed and guidelines established.

The TOV has formidable, effective facilities for the Town to communicate with a broad audience. Counterbalancing strong messages from TOV and other sources make it necessary for members and readers to forward VHA communications to friends and community members. Ground rules for digital communications are being scrutinized by officials at all levels. TOV messaging should be evaluated by the same rigid standards.

This is a new format for VHA reports. More letters will follow. They will be shorter, easier to read and digest and, generally, address single subjects. VHA hopes these letters will promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. Public discussion of current issues by concerned citizens creates an environment to further our community initiatives. We heartily encourage your input and, from time to time, will publish commentary from community members. It is time we talk to each other about the next steps along our road ahead.

We hope you will follow or participate in this ongoing VHA discussion. You are welcome to join-in as a paid-subscriber or member. Contact: vailhomeownersassoc@gmail.com

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