

### **Proposed requirements for a fair, open, and transparent CCPA Election (as required by the motion):**

In order to meet the requirements of the motion, the election process needs to be clearly described. That must mean that, to the best extent possible, the entire process needs to be written down for everyone to see, and it must describe how it accounts for and prevents manipulation or the appearance of potential manipulation. The process must provide for a secret ballot process. This has always been the tradition of our elections, and given the tense discussions that preceded the election, people must be free to vote their conscience, free from fear of retaliation, intimidation, and vilification.

In terms of being open and transparent, there are two processes to consider. The first is verifying voters, and the second is the actual handling of ballots and vote tabulation. The first is something that cannot really be outsourced, the second one can be. We propose the following criteria be adopted for the election of the CCPA Board:

#### **Voter Verification:**

- Multiple people from different sides of the political divide within the organization are involved in voter verification. These people shall be referred to as Voter Verification Monitors. Given the number of people that Friends of WOW Hall (FOWH) have brought to the meeting, it is clear that FOWH have representation in this process.
- Given how the membership records are handled, the current list at the time of the election must be the only determinant of who is or is not a voter initially.
- Anyone who claims to be a member, but is not on the list, must be given the opportunity to submit a provisional ballot and given an opportunity to join or prove membership before the end of the meeting.
- Any member whose ballot is considered provisional shall know that their ballot has the status of provisional until membership can be confirmed.
- Any member unable to prove membership and not willing to join by making a donation of \$15 or more before the end of the meeting, but who still maintains that he/she/they is a member, shall have his/her/their provisional ballot retained for 10 days and efforts will be made by staff to determine whether or not the person was a member at the time of the meeting. The individual may also provide proof of current membership during this period.
- No provisional ballots shall be included or excluded from the tabulation of the results until the Voter Verification Monitors meet and confirm the determinations of each provisional voter's status.
- The final results of the election may be handled in one of two ways.
  - Either the results will be entirely withheld until the status of the provisional ballots have been determined. In that case, the votes, including provisional votes, may be tabulated or tabulation may be deferred until the status of all the provisional ballots is determined. The Voter Verification Monitors shall be provided the current provisional tally, if that tally is not deferred, and know both how many and whose ballots have been deemed provisional. The Voter Verification Monitors shall keep this information confidential until the final tally is provided except in the case of asserting some clear misconduct is taking place, or
  - The results may be tallied, and only results that could not be overturned by the provisional ballots will be announced.

## **Ballot handling:**

In order to have a transparent election, free from manipulation or the appearance of manipulation, either the entire process of ballot handling and tabulation needs to be outsourced to a third party with no connections to the WOW Hall/CCPA, or the process needs to be monitored by multiple people from different sides of the political divide within the organization. Given the number of people that Friends of WOW Hall (FOWH) have brought to the meeting, it is clear that FOWH have representation in this process. These people shall be referred to as Poll Watchers. Poll Watchers and Voter Verification Monitors may be the same people.

Staff has a financial interest in the election and some have made openly partisan statements about the election. This includes a staff member, *during staff report*, calling for candidates that did not support the status quo, to drop out of the election. For these reasons, staff should have no roll in ballot handling or voter submission to a third-party service. Staff's roll should be limited to assisting in voter verification.

### **1. If the entire process is outsourced to a third-party (recommended option):**

- a. This is the recommended process particularly given the necessity for remote participation and the current tensions within the organization.
- b. That party must have no financial, personal relationship, or volunteer history or connection with the WOW Hall/CCPA except for paying the associated fees for the third party's services.
- c. The service must be able to accommodate the need to designate or ultimately determining the inclusion or exclusion of provisional ballots before final results of the election are determined.
- d. The Voter Verification Monitors shall be responsible for monitoring the process to ensure that the voters, both verified and provisional are provided to the third-party service and receive their proper ballots.
- e. The third-party service will be responsible for ballot handling and vote tabulation and all parties will accept those results unless asserting a clear misconduct appears to have taken place.

### **2. If the entire ballot process is done internally:**

This may or may not involve the use of a third-party system like EZVoteOnline.com. In the case of a third-party system being used, it would be software operated by WOW Hall members rather than a third-party service (option 1 above). Under pandemic conditions, the only proper alternative to using a third-party system like EZVoteOnline.com would be to vote by mail.

#### **a. Vote by third-party software:**

- i. Any system involving such a service must be operated/observed by Poll Watchers. All actions taken in the software must be clearly visible to all Poll Watchers, and any questions about the operation of the system must receive immediate answers about the workings of the software before proceeding.
- ii. All Poll Watchers must have an opportunity to register any objections about the administration of the process before any results are tabulated.
- iii. In the case of provisional ballots, if the execution of including or excluding provisional ballots must be done in the software by members, it will be monitored by the Poll Watchers. If it is done by a third-party, it will be monitored by the Voter Verification Monitors as noted above.

**b. Vote by mail:**

- i. Using US Postal Mail would require development of an entirely new system, be expensive, logistically difficult, and may not be in compliance with the bylaws of the CCPA.
- ii. Any vote by mail system must include privacy envelopes so that the voter's status to vote can be verified and the secrecy of the ballot maintained.
- iii. All ballots received in the mail shall have the voter's name checked off on a list that shall be available online so voters can determine that their ballots have been received, whether its status is accepted or provisional, and so Voter Verification Monitors can reconcile the list with the ballots received.
- iv. The return envelopes must have the name of the voter written on the envelope to avoid confusion when multiple ballots are received from a single household.
- v. Postal envelopes will be placed in in a locked box *unopened*.
- vi. The period of time over which the election takes place must be adequate to allow for members to determine if their ballots have been received and correct the situation if the ballots are not received.
- vii. At the end of the ballot collection period, Voter Verification Monitors will open the locked ballot box, remove all secrecy envelopes from the postal envelopes, and place the secrecy envelopes into the locked box separating any provisional ballots that were not accepted.
- viii. Once that is complete, the ballot box will be opened and the ballots will then be tallied by at least 2 Poll Watchers, and then tallied again by 2 different Ballot Watchers. When the counts of the two different groups agree, the results can be announced.