

## **Policy and Rules: Rational for Bylaw changes 9-12-06**

*Article 6: Nominations and Elections: through Article 6.10.*

*These changes were necessitated to bring the GHNNC Bylaws into compliance with the Citywide Election Procedures.*

*This new paragraph shows who is responsible for the elections. There will be an Election Committee Chairperson and a Committee who will follow the GHNNC Bylaws and the Citywide Election Procedures and bring motions concerning the election to the GHNNC Board for approval.*

*The Citywide Election Procedures call for an Independent Election Administrator (IEA) to conduct the election, this paragraph makes it clear who qualifies to be the IEA and makes the references to this person in the rest of this article clear.*

*6.1: Citywide Election Procedures designate that an IEA will conduct the election: therefore, the Election Officer is no longer necessary.*

*Methods of communication change frequently, GHNNC will continue to do appropriate outreach, but needs to be flexible for future Election Procedures.*

*Delete all reference to the time line as they are contained in the Election Procedures*

*6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, & 6.6: To clarify and to comply with the Citywide Election Procedures.*

*6.7 Voter qualifications. To clarify the voting age of Stakeholders, Candidates and voters for Student Representative.*

*The other changes in this article are to comply with the Citywide Election Procedures.*

*6.7.3 & 6.8: Changed for clarification and compliance with Citywide Election Procedures.*

*6.9: To have a Board to continue to conduct business if the new Board is not seated in March.*

*6.10: This was added to make it clear that the GHNNC will comply with the Citywide Election Procedures if or when the L. A. City Council updates them.*

*Submitted by the GHNNC Policy and Rules Committee  
Mary Anna Kienholz  
Acting Chairperson  
9-12-06*

See Below

**Bylaw changes proposed by the Policy and Rules Committee, who was given that responsibility by the GHNNC Board, to be presented to stakeholders at the Special Meeting called for that purpose on September 25, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at Van Gogh School Auditorium.**

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**Article 6: Nominations and Elections: A year before the election the GHNNC Board will appoint an Election Committee Chairperson who will not be a candidate for the election and ask stakeholders (at least 3) to volunteer to be on the committee. This Committee will work with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and with the approval of the Board, appoint an Independent Election Administrator (IEA) from the list of DONE approved IEAs. The Citywide Election Procedures require elections to be conducted by a neutral third party (an Independent Election Administrator).**

**6.1 Nomination Procedures:** The Election ~~Officer~~ **Committee Chairperson** with the Election Committee will attempt to outreach to all Stakeholders, including Special-Interest Groups and Geographic Districts, notifying them of the upcoming nomination procedures and procedures for election of Directors to the Board of Directors. Notification of positions open on the GHNNC Board of Directors and procedures for nominating qualified candidates for these positions will be posted on our web site, ~~posting~~ **posted** at a minimum of five public locations, ~~advertising on Public TV,~~ **by** distributing flyers

throughout the community, **and** contacting people through our e-mail and telephone data base. ~~(2) within 30 days of our certification.~~

If financially feasible, newspaper ads **and/or** ~~directly~~ mailing or hand delivery will also be used. A person's name may appear as a nominee for election for only one position on the Board of Directors, i.e., either a Geographic District or a Special Interest position, but not both.

### **6.2 Nominations of Special-Interest Group Representatives:**

The Election ~~Officer~~ **Committee Chairperson** and Committee **Members** will personally contact leaders from the nine Special-Interest Groups. The Election ~~Officer~~ **Committee Chairperson** and Committee **Members** will make every effort to engage the various Special-Interest Groups to actively seek interested nominees. Nominees for Special Interest Group Representatives will place their names or the names of other qualified persons into nomination for a position on the Board of Directors to represent their Group by contacting the ~~Election Committee-IEA.~~ ~~or at the last GHNNC meeting prior to the election. At that meeting each Special-Interest Group may caucus to nominate a Representative or Representatives to serve on the Board and will then provide the name(s) of the nominee(s) to the Election Officer.~~ The nominees will be **given an opportunity** ~~time~~ at ~~this meeting~~ the Candidate Forum to give brief introductory speeches. The names of these nominees will be posted on our web site and at a minimum of five public locations.

### **6.3 Write-in Nominations of Special-Interest Group**

**Representatives:** Any interested participant in a Special-Interest Group not nominated ~~within the time frame indicated above~~ **by the cut off date for inclusion on the ballot** may contact the ~~Election Officer-IEA~~ and put his or her name in nomination for a position representing their Group. Such write-in nominees may be self-nominated or nominated by others, but documenting evidence of their eligibility to represent the respective Special-Interest Group must be presented.

### **6.4 Nominations of Geographic District Representatives:** A good-

faith effort will be made to reach all Stakeholders in all Districts to encourage nominations. Nominees for Geographic District Representatives may place their names or the names of other qualified Stakeholders into nomination for a position on the Board of Directors to represent the District in which they live, work or own property by contacting the ~~Election Committee IEA, up to 30 days prior to the election date, or at the last GHNNC meeting prior to the election. At that meeting each Geographic District Group may caucus to nominate a Representative or Representatives to serve on the Board and will then provide the name(s) of the nominee(s) to the Election Officer.~~ An opportunity Time will be provided at the Candidate Forum for nominees to give brief introductory speeches. The names of these nominees will be posted on our web site and at a minimum of five public locations.

### **6.5 Write-in Nominations of Geographic District**

**Representatives:** Any interested Stakeholder in a Geographic District not nominated ~~within the time frame indicated above~~ by the cut off date for inclusion on the ballot may contact the ~~Election Officer~~ IEA before the scheduled time for the opening of the election and put his or her name in nomination for a position representing the District where he/she lives, works or owns property. Such write-in candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by others, but documenting evidence must be provided of their eligibility to represent their Geographic District.

**6.6 Election Procedures for the Board of Directors:** Voting for the Board of Directors will take place on a designated Election Day within the month of March and every two years ~~thereafter~~ in odd numbered years. The Election Day will be properly noticed and held within the GHNNC boundaries. ~~At least 30~~ Prior to Election Day notification will be put on our web site, posted at a minimum of five public locations within the GHNNC boundaries, and by distributing flyers throughout the community and contacting people through our e-mail and telephone data base. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. In the event that the same lowest winning number of votes is received by more than one candidate, the IEA will draw a winning name from among

the names of the candidates who tied for that position. Newly elected Directors will assume their duties at the first regular Board meeting after the election. No absentee, or proxy voting will be permitted. No person (even one qualifying as a Stakeholder in two or more groups) may cast more than one ballot.

**6.6.1 Voting for Geographic District Directors:** Voters will use coded written ballots to vote within their appropriate District of the GHNNC on Election Day.

**6.6.2 Voting for Special-Interest Directors:** Each voter eligible to vote for a Special Interest candidate and choosing to vote in that Special Interest category will vote by coded written ballot on Election Day.

**6.7 Voter Qualifications:** To vote or run for office, a Stakeholder must be ~~16-18~~ years of age or older by the day of the election, except for the candidate for Student Representative and those voting for the Student Representative who must be at least 16 years of age by the date of the election, and present documentation including, but not limited to, a picture ID in the form of California Drivers License, California ID, school ID, passport, or any other valid picture ID, or other documentation showing worker status or property ownership within the council boundaries. All verifying documents will be returned immediately after being viewed. They will not be kept. For the homeless, or others with special circumstances, this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the ~~Election Committee~~. **IEA**. If documentation is not available, and if proof of Stakeholder qualification is insufficient, the person may vote, provisionally. ~~by signing a Declaration under penalty of perjury, that they qualify as a Stakeholder in the Council area by stating how they qualify. This Declaration procedure applies to all Stakeholder groups.~~ For a provisional ballot to be converted to a regular ballot and be counted, the voter must supply the IEA with the appropriate documentation within three days.

**6.7.1 Residential Voting:** To vote, a resident of the Council  
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area must present documentation which may include, but is not limited to, a picture ID showing both a picture and a residential address within the Neighborhood Council area.

**6.7.2 Property Owner Voting:** To vote as a property owner, the Stakeholder must present credentials which may include, but is not limited to, a tax bill, deed, or other proof of ownership of property within the appropriate district.

**6.7.3 Worker Voting.** Workers are eligible to vote as Stakeholders in either GHNNC Geographic Districts One, Two or Three, based upon where they work within the GHNNC boundaries. Workers may, as an alternative, elect to participate in the Small Business and Worker Special Interest Groups if they wish. Workers will qualify if they show documentation in the form of a pay stub, IRS form, W-2, or other similarly recognized form, that includes an address within the Council area. If voters so choose, they may redact confidential information such as salary, etc., from their documentation. Workers, who do not spend the majority of their working time within the GHNNC boundaries, such as postal workers, service providers and delivery persons, etc., may vote, unless otherwise qualified in another category, only in the Small Business and Worker ~~caucus~~ **category**. The documentation must include their name, address and a description of the work they do within the Council district, and any supporting documentation, in the form of letters from employers, etc.

**6.7.4 Volunteer Workers and Other Participants:** Volunteer workers or participants in other community groups that meet regularly (at least four times yearly) within the boundaries of the GHNNC may vote unless otherwise qualified in another category, only in the Special-Interest Group that represents their affiliation. The Stakeholder must present documentation of membership in the Special-Interest Group for whom they do the volunteer work and any documentation of the volunteer work they perform, such as a letter from their Group. If a new group or constituency emerges that does not fit into any of the designated categories provided for in these Bylaws, the Bylaws

may be changed under Article 15 to include that group.

**6.8 Voting Disputes:** In cases of incomplete or disputed identification, the voter will be allowed to vote provisionally until the vote is verified. Based on the number of provisional ballots, if the outcome of the election is in doubt, the results will not be made known **for three days** until all the provisional ballots ~~are~~ **have an opportunity to be** verified.

**6.9 If for any reason the election is delayed or the newly elected Board is not seated, a quorum (13 members) or more of the present Board will conduct business at the regular monthly meetings until the newly elected Board is seated.**

**6.10 All Elections must comply with the Election Procedures most recently adopted by the Los Angeles City Council.**

proposed changes for Special Meeting called for September 25, 2006