



TAHOE DONNER ASSOCIATION 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION FAIR CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

~~The purpose of this document is to provide members, candidates and candidate supporters with guidance regarding actions that are encouraged while running an election campaign for the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors' Election.~~

Recitals

~~A. Tahoe Donner is a community, first and foremost. As a community associations, we elect members of our community to serve on our all-volunteer Board of Directors and represent our interests. Directors put in a substantial amount of time and effort in their service and we are lucky to attract experienced and knowledgeable members willing to volunteer their time and talents for the community.~~

~~B. Each year we hold an election for open positions on the Board. During elections there may be instances where passionate candidates or supporters who in advocating a position resort to behavior or tactics that some find an annoyance or believe are misleading or improper.~~

~~C. The election process is intended to provide the membership with an opportunity to learn about candidates and their positions on issues confronting governed by the association. The Association's Governing Documents and California Law, and specifically the Davis Stirling Act (the DSA). The DSA includes mandatory election is an essential part of building and sustaining a neighborly community within the association, and campaign practices should promote processes that objective. In this vein, candidates are intended to further democratic principles in Association elections, encourage free speech, and to ensure that the election process managed by the Association is fair. The Election Rules that have been adopted set forth detail on the election and voting process.~~

~~D. Every candidate and their supporters have certain fundamental free speech rights during an election to express their views, and most campaign advocacy occurs outside of Association channels, e.g., mailers or emails to members or postings on social media platforms such as NextDoor or Facebook. It is not the role of the Association or its standing Elections Committee to monitor communications outside of Association channels, or to review or investigate the content of those communications. There may be situations where campaign related advocacy reaches a level that action by the Association during an election cycle may be considered; however, those instances should be rare and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.~~

~~E. Despite limitations in the Association's role in monitoring and investigating campaign communications and advocacy, it is important to establish best practices and community~~

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~~expectations regarding campaign related advocacy and conduct.~~

~~Therefore, the following Fair Campaign Guidelines are adopted:~~

~~Fair Campaign Guidelines~~

~~1. Candidates and their supporters are expected to abide by basic principles of~~

~~decency, fair play, and honesty, including and shall not makingmake statements known to be false about other candidates, their backgrounds, affiliations or positions. Further, the~~

~~2. The right of candi- datescandidates and their supporters to engage in campaign activities must be balanced by the right of the members right to privacy and the peaceful en- joymentenjoyment of all Tahoe Donner Association property and facilities. Thus, candidates are urged to be respectful of members and to honor their privacy.~~

~~Candidates participating in the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors Election will abide by the following:~~

- ~~1. The posting of signage, flyers, etc., on Association Media (official bulletin board, notice board, kiosk, official website, broadcasting on Association television monitors or other notices mailed or delivered by the Association members) is not permitted, unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors. (See Section 1.1 of the Tahoe Donner Association Voting and Election Rules). The Board has authorized the use of Electronic Bulletin Boards hosted by Tahoe Donner for all official candidates. Campaign materials can be posted/updated weekly during the campaign cycle. Candidates may include a link to a personal website on the Electronic Bulletin Board. The campaign period will begin when the roster of candidates is approved by the Elections Committee and will terminate when the Elections Committee announces final election results.~~
- ~~2. Campaign signs are permitted on private property (Separate Interest) within Tahoe Donner with the owner's permission.~~
- ~~3. The Town of Truckee regulations provide that temporary political signs may be posted 60 days preceding the election and shall be removed within 14 days following the election and may be located within the Town of Truckee right of way as long as they do not create site distance conflicts or other safety hazards (See Town of Truckee website). These rules shall be applicable to Tahoe Donner Association elections.~~

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- ~~4. Paid advertising in the Tahoe Donner News by candidates is not permitted.~~
- ~~5. Candidates are encouraged to exercise caution in the public distribution of information. Candidates shall not knowingly distribute or disseminate information of any kind to the members which they know is false or materially misleading. When using social media, e.g., www.nextdoor.com, candidates shall abide by the site's stated rules and regulations. The Tahoe Donner Association is not responsible for content by candidates using social media, nor does it have any control over the use of social media by candidates.~~
- ~~6. Individual members have the right to personally endorse any candidate of their choice. However, when such endorsements are made in writing, individuals who hold an official position with the association (e.g. board member, committee member, task force member, club leader, members who are Tahoe Donner employees) shall prominently display a disclaimer dissociating their private endorsement from any official Tahoe Donner groups or bodies with which they are affiliated. The Elections Committee provides the following disclaimer language as a model:~~

~~*"This endorsement does not represent the views or opinions of Tahoe Donner or any official Tahoe Donner groups or bodies."*~~

~~7. Electronic Campaigning~~

- ~~• The use of bulk e-mail lists or cell phone numbers for campaign purposes cannot be controlled by the Tahoe Donner Association. However, candidates or candidates' surrogates who utilize this type of campaigning shall display a prominent OPT OUT link in their e-mails or text messages. If a member OPTS OUT, their address must be removed from the distribution list. Continued unsolicited contact, after being rebuffed by the member, could be considered harassment.~~
 - ~~• Pursuant to California Civil Code, section 5200, the official membership list, which is available to candidates *on request*, now includes an email address unless the member has opted out or has not provided their email address to Tahoe Donner Association. A request for the official membership list must be submitted in writing using the Tahoe Donner Association Membership List Request Form, available at the administrative office.~~
 - ~~• Additionally, e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers collected by the Board of Directors and TD Committees, Task Forces or Association sponsored clubs shall not be shared or harvested for the purpose of building a bulk e-mail list or cell phone contact list for campaigning.~~



- ~~Personal e-mail addresses that members use to send e-mail to their friends, neighbors, and acquaintances for campaign purposes cannot be controlled by the Tahoe Donner Association.~~
 - ~~The Elections Committee urges candidates and members to use discretion when campaigning by both bulk and personal e-mail.~~
8. ~~In accordance with California law and Association rules, candidates are permitted access to common areas for campaign purposes.~~
- ~~Candidates have the right to access members for campaigning purposes, and members have a right to the peaceful enjoyment of all Tahoe Donner Association properties and facilities. As such, Candidates are asked to respect members' right to peaceful enjoyment at all Tahoe Donner Association properties and venues.~~
 - ~~If a Candidate believes that their access to the membership is restricted or if a member believes that their right to peaceful enjoyment is infringed upon, please inform the Elections Committee immediately via email at electionscommittee@tahoedonner.com. The Elections Committee will follow up with the individual lodging the complaint, and all candidates will be notified of the outcome. Depending on the severity of the complaint, the Board of Directors might become involved.~~
9. ~~Members occasionally submit questions to a candidate or candidates. If the candidate(s) needs assistance from staff to answer such questions, the question should be forwarded to the Elections Committee mailbox at electionscommittee@tahoedonner.com. The Elections Committee, in conjunction with Senior Staff will identify the appropriate staff member to answer the question and consult with the candidate(s). Once an answer is received, it will be shared with all candidates. This process will ensure that all questions asked are answered correctly, factually and shared with all the other candidates.~~
10. ~~The Elections Committee will monitor the election process to help assure its fairness and impartiality. To that end, the Elections Committee, in conjunction with the Inspector of Election, will monitor campaign activities of candidates, respond to and investigate inquiries/complaints from members, staff and/or other candidates and inform the Board of issues that may be in conflict with the Associations CC&R's.~~
11. ~~It is a goal of the Elections Committee to make opportunities available to the membership to meet and interact with the candidates during the Election period so that members may inform their vote for the Board election. Formal Elections Committee sponsored candidate access to the membership will be made available on separate occasions, scheduled early in the election cycle. Dates and times of these events will be published in each~~



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~~Election Candidate Packet, the Tahoe Donner News, posted online and sent through email to inform the membership. These events include—~~

- ~~• Candidates Night with Formal Questions
▪ Saturday, May 23, 2020~~
- ~~• Candidate Meet and Greet Events
▪ Saturday, May 16, 2020~~

~~Saturday, June 6, 2020. Candidates and their supporters shall abide by all applicable laws and Association restrictions and rules, including the Election Rules, which among other things, set forth rules relating to campaign signs on private property (each member's Lot) and when such signs may be posted and when they must be removed, as well as the use of Association Media (bulletin boards, website, newsletter, etc.) and common areas.~~

~~4. The Tahoe Donner Association and its Election Committee does not have control over or responsibility for content distributed by candidates or their supporters using channels outside of the Association's Media. Candidates and their supporters are encouraged to exercise common sense and good judgment, and should at all times refrain from knowingly distributing or disseminating information of any kind to the members which they know to be false or materially misleading. When using social media platforms, the rules of such sites must be followed.~~

~~5. The Tahoe Donner Association has pledged, along with the Town of Truckee, to abide by the "Speak Your Peace Campaign", which is intended to promote civility in public discourse. There is no more important time than during an election to focus once again on treating our neighbors, our family, ourselves, and strangers with respect and honor.~~

~~6. The Speak Your Peace Campaign does seek to eliminate disagreements, but reminds us how to have a civil discourse about those disagreements. By seeking to understand one another, we create a cohesive and healthy community in which all of our members' needs are met. During an election these elements of the Speak Your Peace campaign should be kept in mind by all candidates and their supporters:~~

- ~~• **Listen.** Genuinely focus on and seek to understand others so that you may better understand their perspectives.~~
- ~~• **Be Inclusive.** Welcome all points of view, every individual, and all members of the Tahoe Donner community, who are working toward what they consider to be the greater good.~~
- ~~• **Don't Gossip.** When it comes to elections, do not spread or encourage others to spread rumors or unsubstantiated information about candidates or their supports.~~
- ~~• **Show Respect.** Honor other people and their opinions, especially in the midst of~~

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disagreement. Communicate with consideration respect. Focus on policies, not personalities. Do not resort to personal attacks.

7. It is the expectation that all candidates will pledge to abide by these Fair Campaign Guidelines, and ensure that their supporters and advocates also adhere to these guidelines. A failure to do so may reflect poorly on a candidate or their supporters and the voting members may take that into account in casting their votes.

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