



**TAHOE DONNER ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION**  
**FAIR CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES**

**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 governed by the Association's Governing Documents and California Law, and specifically the Davis Stirling Act (the DSA"). The DSA includes mandatory election processes that 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 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, and shall not make statements known to be false about other candidates, their backgrounds, affiliations or positions.
2. The right of candidates and their supporters to engage in campaign activities must be balanced by the right of the members right to privacy and the peaceful enjoyment of all Tahoe Donner Association property and facilities. Thus, candidates are urged to be respectful of members and to honor their privacy.
3. 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 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.

**End**