

Memo to the Election Committee

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Earlier this year the Tahoe Donner HOA Board enacted new Campaign Guidelines and a Code of Conduct for the Board. Both of these documents encourage positive campaigning and limited candidate spending on Board elections.

Campaign Guidelines

- 1. Campaign Economically.** Escalating campaign spending can reduce confidence in the fairness of our elections, undermine the political equality of our members, and present financial barriers of entry to those considering running for the board of directors. To de-escalate campaign spending, candidates and advocates are encouraged to run economical campaigns, employing cost-effective campaign outreach techniques. Many electronic and grassroots campaigning techniques can be used effectively in Tahoe Donner for little to no cost.

Board Code of Conduct

A Director may not use his or her position as a Director to benefit or harm the campaign of any candidate that is on an Association ballot....it is strongly recommended for Directors to refrain from advocating for the election or defeat of any candidate on an Association ballot.

Issue: Disclosure

The attached analysis indicates a significant increase in spending on HOA board elections in the last three years (there was no campaign in 2021). Reportedly candidates are self-funding, but there may be outside contributions to their campaigns as well. Further a Political Action Committee (PAC) made a significant expenditure in 2020, with no disclosure as to the funder(s).

The question arises as to whether there should be campaign disclosure of donors and expenditures above a certain dollar amount, including by PACs. The second and last weeks in June would be good points in the election process for this disclosure.

Issue: Expenditures

Was there only one candidate in 2021, because of amount of money which potential challengers perceive is now required to run for office? Did the impact of 2019's negative campaigning contribute? (Conversely, the candidate in 2021 was a strong incumbent.) Should the Tahoe Donner HOA be providing more information to Members through a glossy mailer to diminish the impact of individual expenditures and drive higher voter turn-out?

