

**ELECTION RULES**

**MALIBU COLONY WEST  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

**a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation**

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These Election Rules are adopted to conform to revisions in the Davis-Stirling Act effective January 1, 2020. These Rules are otherwise consistent with the other governing documents of the Association.

**ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 “Association” means the Malibu Colony West Homeowners Association, a California nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation.
- 1.2 “Board” or “Board of Directors” means the Board of Directors of the Association.
- 1.3 “Bylaws” means the Association’s bylaws.
- 1.4 “CC&Rs” means the Association’s declaration as the term is defined in the Davis-Stirling Act.
- 1.5 “Director” means any member of the Association’s Board of Directors.
- 1.6 “Davis Stirling Act” means and refers to the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act which is the portion of the California Civil Code beginning with Section 4000 that governs common interest developments.
- 1.7 “Inspector of Election” means an inspector of elections as defined in the Davis-Stirling Act.
- 1.8 “Member” means a Member of the Association as defined in the Association’s CC&Rs.
- 1.9 “Separate Interest” means a separate interest as defined in the Association’s CC&Rs.

**ARTICLE 2: TIMING OF BOARD ELECTIONS AND ACTIONS REQUIRING MEMBERSHIP VOTE.**

- 2.0 Elections for the Board of Directors must be conducted at least ninety (90) days after the announcement of an election. Thirty (30) days’ notice shall be given for candidates to be nominated, and following the close of nominations, the election shall occur no less than sixty (60) days thereafter.
- 2.1 Actions requiring membership vote not involving Board of Directors elections shall also be conducted according to current provisions of the Davis-Stirling Act.

## ARTICLE 3: ELECTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### 3.1 Generally.

- a. *Annual Meetings.* The Association holds an annual meeting each year to conduct Association business requiring a membership vote. Such meetings may include Director elections, or other types of elections.

## ARTICLE 4: DIRECTORS

4.1 Number and Term of Directors. The Board will consist of three (3) Directors. The term of each Director is one (1) year and until a qualified successor is elected to fill his/her seat.

4.2 Candidate and Director Qualifications. Members must meet the qualifications in the subsections hereafter to be eligible for nomination as a candidate for, or to serve as a Director, on the Board. Any dispute about whether any of these qualifications are met and, if not, whether a nominee or Director must be disqualified from running for office or serving on the Board, must be made at a properly noticed disciplinary hearing conducted at an executive session Board meeting.

- a. *Candidates Must be Members.* The Association must disqualify the nomination of a candidate who is not a Member of the Association at the time of nomination.
- b. *Member in Good Standing.* To be eligible for nomination and/or to serve on the Board, the person or impersonal entity must not be delinquent by more than sixty (60) days in the payment of any regular or special Assessment unless otherwise eligible under the current provisions of the Davis-Stirling Act.
- c. *Internal Dispute Resolution.* Before any candidate for nomination or serving Director may be disqualified, the person or impersonal entity must be provided the opportunity to engage in internal dispute resolution as provided in the Davis-Stirling Act.

4.3 Impersonal Entities. If title to a Separate Interest is held by a legal entity that is not a natural person, the governing authority of that legal entity shall have the power to appoint a natural person to be a Member for the purpose of candidacy or serving on the Board. The designation by the impersonal legal entity must be in writing with documentation confirming both the designation and its authority to do so.

## ARTICLE 5: INSPECTOR(S) OF ELECTION

### 5.1 Selection.

- a. *Process.* Prior to the date ballots are first sent out, the Board of Directors must, at an open meeting of the Board, select either one (1) or three (3) persons as Inspector(s) of Election.

- b. *Eligible Inspector(s)*. The Board may select as Inspector(s) of Election, any person or entity or subdivision of a business entity not currently employed or under contract to the Association. Eligible Inspectors include, but are not limited to:
- i. *Poll Workers*. A volunteer poll worker with the County Registrar of Voters;
  - ii. *Accountants*. A licensee of the California Board of Accountancy, not under contract to the Association;
  - iii. *Notary Public*. A notary public commissioned by the California Secretary of State.
  - iv. *Association Members*. Members of the Association, but not: (i) members of the Board, (ii) candidates for the Board, (iii) persons related to a member of the Board, or (iv) persons related to a candidate for the Board;
  - v. *Professional Inspectors*. Third party persons or entities who provide professional election services who contract with the Association solely to serve as an Inspector of Election.

5.2 Duties. Duties of Inspector(s) of Election include the following:

- a. *Membership*. Determine the number of memberships entitled to vote and the voting power of each.
- b. *Validity of Proxies*. Determine the authenticity, validity and effect of proxies, if any.
- c. *Closing and Reopening of Polls*. Determine when the polls close, including any desired extensions of the voting period, and determine whether to reopen the polls to allow Members to cast ballots if the polls were previously closed, all consistent with the Association's other governing documents.
- d. *Receive Ballots*. Receive all ballots. Once received by an Inspector of Election, ballots are irrevocable.
- e. *Custody*. Sealed ballots, signed voter envelopes, voter list, proxies, and candidate registration list shall at all times be in the custody of the Inspector(s) of Election or at a location designated by the Inspector(s) until after the tabulation of the vote, and until the time allowed by Section 5145 for challenging the election has expired, at which time custody shall be transferred to the Association. No person, including a Member of the Association or an employee of the management company, is permitted to open or otherwise review any ballot prior to the time and place at which the ballots are counted and tabulated. The Inspector(s) of Election or the Inspector(s) appointee(s) may verify the Member's information and signature on the outer envelope prior to the meeting at which ballots are tabulated.

- f. *Challenges.* Hear and determine all challenges and questions in any way arising out of or in connection with the right to vote. If there is a recount or other challenge to the election process, the Inspector(s) of Election must make the ballots available for inspection and review by an Association Member or the Member's authorized representative, upon written request. An Association Member may authorize a representative to review the ballots on his or her behalf. Any recount must be conducted in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the vote.
- g. *Counting Ballots.* Count and tabulate all votes. All votes must be counted and tabulated by the Inspector(s) of Election or the Inspector(s) appointee(s) in public at a properly noticed open meeting of the Board of Directors or Members. Candidates and Members may witness, but not interfere with, the counting and tabulation of the votes from at least two (2) feet away from the Inspector(s) and his/her/their appointee(s).
- h. *Appoint Assistants.* Appoint and oversee additional independent third parties to verify signatures, and to count and tabulate votes as the Inspector(s) of Election deem appropriate provided that such persons are independent third parties.
- i. *Results.* Determine the tabulated results of the election.
- j. *Impartiality.* Perform all duties impartially, in good faith, to the best of the ability of the Inspector(s) of Election, as expeditiously as is practical, and in a manner that protects the interest of all Members of the Association. Any report made by the Inspector(s) of Election is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the report.
- k. *Miscellaneous.* Perform any acts as may be proper to conduct the election with fairness to all Members in accordance with the Civil Code, the Corporations Code, the Association's governing documents, and all applicable rules of the Association regarding the conduct of the election that are not in conflict with the Civil Code.

5.3 Removal. The Board has the power to remove any Inspector(s) who ceases to meet the required qualifications, are unable or unwilling to perform their duties, or for any other good reason, and to appoint one or more replacement Inspectors.

## **ARTICLE 6: NOMINATIONS**

6.1 Nomination Procedures and Notice. Prior to the election of Directors, the Board must, by written notice to all Members, solicit nominees. The solicitation must include the "Candidate and Director Qualifications" described above and provide general notice of the procedure and deadline for submitting a nomination. The deadline must be at least thirty (30) days after giving notice. Delivery of the solicitation must be given by individual notice, pursuant to Civil Code §4040, if individual notice is requested by a Member before the solicitation is given. Nominees must be listed as candidates on the ballot provided (i) they meet candidate and Director qualifications and (ii) their nomination is made prior to the date and time set for the

close of nominations.

6.2 Self-Nomination. Any qualified person may nominate himself or herself for election to the Board of Directors by submitting to the Association a written statement signed and dated by the person nominating himself or herself. The Association must set a cut-off date for the receipt of self-nomination statements, which date must be publicized in advance to the Members.

6.3 Nominating Committee. As provided for in the Bylaws, a nominating committee may, but is not required, to be appointed each year by the Board.

## **ARTICLE 7: BALLOTS AND PROXIES**

### 7.1 Voting Rights.

- a. *Number of Votes*. Each Member is entitled to one (1) vote per Separate Interest on all matters presented to the Members for a vote.
- b. *Record Date*. For Membership elections where a secret ballot is required under the law, and any other Membership election where the Board has not set a Record Date for the election, the Record Date will be the date ballots are distributed to the Membership. Only owners on title on the Record Date are entitled to vote. Persons acquiring title after the Record Date may attend the election meeting but are not entitled to vote. For any Membership election where a secret ballot is not required under the law, the Board is permitted to set a Record Date for an election no more than sixty (60) days before the date of the election meeting.
- c. *Proof of Membership*. No person or entity may exercise the rights of membership without an ownership interest in a Separate Interest subject to Association's CC&Rs. If the Board requests proof of ownership, the required proof is a recorded deed showing the required ownership or, if the property was transferred within the past thirty (30) days and a copy of the newly recorded deed is not yet available, a completed escrow closing statement is sufficient.
- d. *No Cumulative Voting*. Cumulative voting is not permitted.
- e. *Co-Owners*. Where there is more than one owner of a Separate Interest subject to the Association's CC&Rs, all such co-Owners are Members and may attend any meeting of the Association, but only one co-Owner is entitled to exercise the vote to which the Separate Interest is entitled. Fractional votes are not permitted. In the event more than one ballot is cast for a particular Separate Interest, only the first ballot received will be opened and counted.
- f. *Presumption of Consent*. Unless the Inspector(s) of Election receive a written objection prior to the close of balloting from a co-owner, it is conclusively presumed that a voting owner acted with the consent of his or her co-owners.

- g. *Voting for Properly Nominated Candidates.* Members must vote only for those candidate(s) who have been properly nominated prior to the close of nominations.

7.2 Proxies.

- a. *Generally.* The Association may use and accept proxies as permitted by law and the Association's governing documents, provided that the Association is not required to prepare or distribute proxies. Proxies are not permitted to be construed or used in lieu of a ballot at a meeting.
- b. *Proxy Form.* Any instruction given in a proxy issued for an election that directs the manner by which the proxyholder is to cast the vote must be set forth on a separate page of the proxy that can be detached and given to the proxyholder to retain. Proxies must meet all requirements of Chapter 4 of Article 2 of the Davis-Stirling Act, other laws, and the Association's governing documents.
- c. *Vote by Proxyholder.* The proxyholder must cast the Member's vote by secret ballot unless the proxy is revoked by the Member prior to the receipt of the ballot by any Inspector of Election as described in Corp. Code §7613.
- d. *Who May Be Proxyholder?* As provided for in Civil Code §5130(a)(1), proxyholders must be Members.

7.3 Pre-Ballot Notice. At least 30 days before the ballots are distributed, the Association must provide general notice (or individual notice to a Member who requested it) which includes:

- a. The date, time and physical address to mail or hand deliver ballots to the Inspector(s);
- b. The date, time and location of the ballot counting meeting; and
- c. A list of candidates to appear on the ballots.

7.4 Candidate List and Voter List. The Association must retain, as Association election materials, both a candidate registration list and a voter list. The voter list must include name, voting power, and either the physical address of the voter's Separate Interest, the parcel number, or both. The mailing address for the ballot shall be listed on the voter list if it differs from the physical address of the voter's Separate Interest or if only the parcel number is used.

7.5 Verification of Lists. The Association must permit Members to verify the accuracy of their individual information on the candidate registration list and the voter list at least 30 days before the ballots are distributed. The Association or Member must report any errors or omissions to either list to the Inspector(s) of Election who must make the corrections within two business days. Reports of any errors or omissions should be made early enough to allow for corrections to be made before the ballots are distributed.

7.6 Secret Ballots. All ballots mailed or otherwise delivered to the membership must include a double-envelope system and voting instructions for returning the ballots as provided for in the Davis-Stirling Act, and must be mailed by first-class mail or delivered to every Member entitled to vote at least thirty (30) days before the initial voting deadline. Ballots seeking approval to amend or restate governing documents must be delivered to the Members with the text of the proposed amendment.

- a. *Signature*. Ballots do not require a signature. Ballots signed by Members remain valid.
- b. *Inner Envelope*. The Association will provide two envelopes. To preserve secrecy, the ballot is to be placed within an inner envelope with no identifying information. However, information written on the inner envelope by a Member will not invalidate the ballot. The inner envelope containing the ballot is to be placed into a second “outer” envelope containing identifying information.
- c. *Outer Envelope*. In the upper left-hand corner of the outer envelope, the voting Member must sign his/her name and indicate (print, type, etc.) his/her name and the address entitling the voter to vote. The outer envelope must be addressed to the Inspector(s) of Election.
- d. *Delivery*. The outer envelope may be mailed to the address on the envelope or delivered to a location specified by the Inspector(s) of Election. The Member may request a receipt for delivery.

7.7 Election Rules. At least 30 days before the voting deadline, the Inspector(s) of Election must deliver, or cause to be delivered, the election operating rules to all Members. Such rules may be delivered (1) by individual delivery (Civil Code §4040) or (2) by posting the rules on an internet website and including the website address (URL) on the ballot with the phrase, in at least 12-point font: “The rules governing this election may be found here:”

7.8 Power of Attorney. The Association cannot deny a ballot to a person with general power of attorney for a Member. The ballot of a person with a general power of attorney must be counted if timely returned.

7.9 Quorum by Ballot. Each ballot received by an Inspector(s) of Election within a properly completed outer envelope from a Member is deemed as a Member present at a meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum.

## **ARTICLE 8: CAMPAIGNING**

### 8.1 Access to Media.

- a. *Use of Association Resources*.
  - i. *Association Media*. Neither candidates nor Members may use the Association’s newsletter, website, any other Association media for campaign purposes.



- ii. *Membership List.* Candidates and Members have the right to request a copy of the Association’s membership list for the purposes of distributing, at their own expense, materials which advocate a point of view reasonably related to an election, or as otherwise permitted by Civil Code §4515. Candidates and Members also have the right to contact Members who have opted out of the membership list through the alternate means of communication permitted under Cal. Civ. Code §5220 for the purposes of distributing, at their own expense, materials which advocate a point of view reasonably related to the election or as otherwise permitted by Civil Code §4515.
- b. *Exception.* If any candidate or Member is provided access to Association newsletters, website, or other Association media during an election, or given permission to post campaign material in the common area for purposes that are reasonably related to that election, equal access must be provided to all candidates and Members. The access is limited to information relating to that election and cannot exclude those candidates and Members not endorsed by the Board. The Association is not permitted to edit or redact any content from these communications but is permitted to include a statement that the candidate or Member, and not the Association, is responsible for that content. The Association and its Directors, officers, and agents are immune from liability for the content of those communications to the fullest extent provided by law.

8.2 Use of Common Area During Election Campaign.

- a. *Purpose.* Regarding any Association election, each candidate, Member, or resident is permitted to use, if available, the Association’s common area at no cost for a purpose relating to Association elections as described in Civil Code §4515, including to advocate a point of view reasonably related to the election.
- b. *Reservation.* Each candidate, Member, or resident, who wants to use the common area pursuant to *Civil Code* §§4515 or 5105 must make a reservation in advance of the date and time requested. Such requests to use the common area are granted on a first-come, first-served basis, provided that the area is not already reserved. In order to assure fairness, each candidate may not reserve or use the common area for more than two (2) hours on any particular date. In addition, each candidate or Member is permitted to make only one (1) reservation per day to use the common area.

8.3 No Use of Association Funds for Campaign Purposes. Association funds may not be used for campaign purposes in connection with any Board election and may not be used for campaign purposes in connection with any other Association election except to the extent necessary to comply with duties of the Association imposed by law. The Association is not permitted to include the photograph or prominently feature the name of any candidate on a communication from the Association or its Board. Directors, in their capacities as Members, are permitted to advocate for the election or defeat of any issue or candidate on the ballot at their own expense and are not permitted to use Association funds for that purpose in any capacity.

8.4 Improper Electioneering.

- a. *Prohibited Activities.* In addition to any of the prohibitions under this article, candidates, Members, and residents, including their tenants, families, employees, agents, visitors, licensees, or servants are prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities:
- i. Causing any printed campaign or other election related materials to be placed upon or affixed to (1) resident's vehicles, (2) common area walls, doors, or windows, (3) mail boxes or mail box structures, (4) or any portion of the common area not expressly permitted in these rules without prior authorization from the Board or management;
  - ii. Attempt to solicit either a vote or proxy from another Member, or their power of attorney, through deceit, harassment, intimidation, improper influence, undue coercion, or force;
  - iii. Attempt to prevent a Member from casting a vote or delegating their right to vote via proxy through deceit, harassment, intimidation, improper influence, undue coercion, or force;
  - iv. Interfere with the counting or tallying of votes;
  - v. Solicit the vote of a Member while in that Member's immediate presence or residence and during the time he or she knows the Member is voting;
  - vi. Induce other Members to divert ballots away from the Inspector(s) of Election; or
  - vii. Interfere with any candidate's ability to distribute authorized campaign materials.
- b. *Report Violations.* Members are encouraged to report any electioneering violations they witness to the Board or management.
- c. *Fines.* The Board is permitted to levy a fine of up to \$100 for each violation of this section.

**ARTICLE 9: CANVASSING AND PETITIONING**

9.1 Generally. Canvassing and petitioning the Members, the Board, and residents for purposes permitted in Civil Code §4515, by telephone and/or personal visits to private residences in the development, is limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. However, any Member or resident who declines to be contacted on any issue, including for a purpose specified in Civil Code §4515, must not be contacted by telephone or personal visits thereafter.

9.2 Impermissible Conduct. Nothing in this section permits a Member or resident to contact another Member or resident in a manner that constitutes a breach of the Member's or resident's quiet enjoyment, or a nuisance.

## **ARTICLE 10: DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION**

10.1 Generally. Reasonably distributing and circulating information for any purposes described by Civil Code §4515, is permitted and restricted as follows:

- a. Members or residents may distribute or circulate printed information for purposes specified in Civil Code §4515 to other Members or residents by (1) mail, (2) placing printed materials under front doors, front door mats, and/or behind screen doors, and (3) handing out printed material in the common area to Members and residents willing to accept such materials. The handing out of materials in the common area may be conducted only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- b. Member and residents may not cause any printed materials, including those for any purposes specified in Civil Code §4515, to be placed upon or affixed to (1) resident's vehicles, (2) common area walls, doors, windows or other surfaces, (3) mail boxes or mail box structures, (4) or in any portion of the common area not expressly permitted in these rules without prior authorization from the Board or management.
- c. Members and residents distributing and circulating printed materials permitted in these rules, such as those left at front doors or in other permissible locations in the development, are responsible to collect and discard any such materials that remain uncollected after twenty-four (24) hours from distribution or circulation.

## **ARTICLE 11: PETITIONS**

11.1 Purpose. The purpose of the petition for a membership meeting must be set forth in the petition so Members know what they are signing. Meetings may only be called for a proper purpose.

11.2 Signatures. Only Members may sign petitions. Signatures by persons not on title are invalid. The Association may validate signatures by comparing them against signatures on file with the Association or by contacting signers to verify their signatures. Any person on title to a property can sign on behalf of the property but it counts only once. For example, if there are ten owners on title for one unit, all of whom sign a petition, it counts as one signature not ten.

11.3 Invalidity of Signatures. A petition can be rendered invalid if a sufficient number of signatures are found invalid or rescinded for good cause (such as fraud, mistake, undue

influence or other valid grounds for rescission), such that the number of remaining signatures falls below 5% of total voting power of the membership.

11.4 Setting the Date. The date of the special meeting for a recall must be set in the manner provided for in these Election Rules above and the law.

11.5 Recall Petitions. Recalls are not permitted to be started against the Board as a whole or any individual Director if: (a) the Board or Director has held office during the current term for less than ninety (90) days; (b) a recall election has been determined in the Board's or Director's favor within the last six (6) months; (c) for the recall of a Board, when an annual meeting will be held within six (6) months or less or (d) for the recall of individual Directors, when their term will end within six (6) months or less. Additionally, if a recall of the entire Board fails, a six (6)-month waiting period must be observed before recall petitions may be filed against individual Directors who served on that Board.

## **ARTICLE 12: POST-ELECTION RESULTS**

12.1 Breaking a Tie. In the event of a tie leaving the outcome of the election unresolved, the following will apply:

- a. The Inspector(s) of Election, and any appointee(s), will immediately conduct a recount of the ballots. If there is a charge, the Association will bear the expense. Members may observe the recount under the same conditions as the original ballot counting.
- b. Following the immediate recount, if the tie remains, all other newly elected Directors will immediately begin serving their terms. An incumbent Director whose seat was tied will continue in office until a runoff election determines the winner for his/her seat. Only candidates who tied for the seat will be in the runoff.
- c. In lieu of a runoff and if the tied candidates agree, the winner may be decided by a coin toss or the drawing of names by the Inspector(s) of Election.

12.2 Results of an Election. The tabulated results of the election must be announced immediately after all the ballots have been counted. The tabulated results of the election must be promptly reported to the Board of Directors and must be recorded in the minutes of the next Board meeting. Within fifteen (15) days of the election, the Board must publicize the tabulated results of the election in a communication directed to all Members.

12.3 Status of the Election Materials after Election. The sealed ballots, signed voter envelopes, voter list, proxies, and candidate registration list shall at all times be in the custody of the Inspector(s) of Election or at a location designated by the Inspector(s) until after the tabulation of the vote, and until the time allowed by Section 5145 for challenging the election has expired, at which time custody shall be transferred to the Association. If there is a recount or other challenge to the election process, the Inspector(s) of Election shall, upon written request, make the ballots available for inspection and review by an Association Member or the Member's authorized representative. Any recount shall be conducted in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the vote.

12.4 Election Recount. Election recounts, other than the automatic recount following a tie leaving the outcome of an election unresolved, will be conducted as follows:

- a. Any Member of the Association may demand a recount of the ballots provided (i) demand is made in writing to the Inspector(s) of Election within five (5) days after the election results have been announced, and (ii) the Member pays in advance for the estimated cost of the recount which estimate will be provided by the Inspector(s) of Election. Monies advanced by the Member must be refunded if the outcome of the election is changed by the recount.
- b. The recount must be commenced no less than seven (7) days following the request for the recount and must be done by or under the supervision of the Inspector(s) of Election. If any Inspector of Election declines to perform the recount, the Board may appoint a replacement Inspector of Election, using the criteria specified in these rules and the replacement Inspector will assume custody of the ballots.