

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Survey Name:** Elections Committee Survey 2015

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

Dec 15, 2015 10:19:03 AM

### 1. What's Your Preference?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I like voting in person, with the traditional community celebration on the	22	78.5%
I prefer to mail my ballot	5	17.8%
No Responses	1	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2. Residents should be able to request an absentee ballot by email.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	26	92.8%
No	2	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

3. VMA should have procedures ensure that our votes (including any absentee ballots) are kept private from VMA staff and the public.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	26	92.8%
No	2	7.1%
No Responses	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

4. Absentee ballots should be submitted to:

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
the VMA staff office	3	10.7%
the Elections Committee	23	82.1%
No Responses	2	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

5. Absentee ballots should be accepted on election day if voters bring them to the polls.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	22	78.5%
No	5	17.8%

No Responses	1	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>
8 Comment(s)		

6. If possible, residents should have the option of voting on-line.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	13	46.4%
No	14	50.0%
No Responses	1	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

7. The Village usually schedules its election on a Thursday evening. Should VMA consider holding the election on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Thursday	19	70.3%
Saturday	4	14.8%
Sunday	7	25.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. The Village sends out the candidates' personal statements, and holds a public community forum for residents to ask the candidates questions, before each election. Should VMA do anything more to provide information about the candidates? If so, what?

13 Response(s)

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**9. Did you have and problems in voting last May? If so, please tell us what happened:**

12 Response(s)

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**10. Other comments and suggestions?**

13 Response(s)

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### 5. Absentee ballots should be accepted on election day if voters bring them to the polls. - Comments

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#### Answer

I assume the voter is the person who requested the ballot and discovered that they could vote in person.

I think this would encourage too many people to request absentee ballots "just in case" when they can vote in person.

If the voter comes to the polls, he/she should surrender their absentee ballot and vote on site.

re #4, VMA office if in double envelope; otherwise, the Committee.

re #5, isn't that contrary to what absentee ballots are for?

Doesn't make much sense if they can bring the ballot to the polls, they aren't absentee. It's not clear if the polls are open all day or just in certain hours.

Absentee ballots should be submitted in a sealed envelop to be opened by the elections committee on election day. This envelop should be placed in another envelop and sealed and signed by the voter to be sure only one vote is cast by the voter. On election day the name on the outer envelop should be checked off on the voter register and the inner envelops gathered together and then opened and the votes counted. Ballots should be accepted on election day when voters bring them to the polls. Keep the sidewalk community celebration.

I don't see any harm in allowing folks who've gotten absentee ballots to bring them to the polls -- we want as many folks as possible to vote -- but I don't understand why anyone who has gotten an absentee ballot wouldn't simply submit it prior to election day.

**8. The Village sends out the candidates' personal statements, and holds a public community forum for residents to ask the candidates questions, before each election. Should VMA do anything more to provide information about the candidates? If so, what? - Responses**

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**Answer**

Candidates should affirm that they have no undisclosed commercial or personal ties, direct or indirect, to VMA, its staff or other council members.

I think it would be nice to have a League of Women Voters style candidate guide where each candidate is asked the same (few) questions and given some limited number of words in which to reply. It would be fine with me if this information was available online only, as it would cost a lot of paper to print it. I couldn't go to the candidate forum and though I listened to much of it, I think it's easier to assimilate written information.

We get enough information and can always request more.

No

I would suggest having the candidates answer a set of standard questions in addition to submitting a brief personal statement. It would be easier to compare candidates' views on various topics of interest to the community if they all responded to a predetermined set of topics. For example, I might ask things like: what do you think should be the top three items on the council's agenda; what is your view on the current set of building codes; what government or board experience have you had. And so forth.

Record the forum and make the recording available on-line, like VMA Council meeting minutes.

Seems enough.

o.k as it is

No

Present system seems sufficient.

Provide a way for residents to send questions online to all candidates at once and, as an option, to post the questions and answers on the VMA website (perhaps all at once 2-3 days before the election when residents are really focused on the election).

No

No. I think VMA publicizes candidates' statements well. It's up to each candidate to provide what he or she wants voters to know. And the candidate forum, usually poorly attended, gives folks ample opportunity to ask candidates questions.

9. Did you have any problems in voting last May? If so, please tell us what happened: - Responses

Answer

No but many neighbors did. General concerns were that the VMA office staff was receiving ballots and had an opportunity to mishandle them.

No, I had no problem.

No problems. It was fast and easy.

I had no problems.

No

No problem voting

n/a

No

no

Yes. I got an absentee ballot ahead of time, but didn't turn it in before the office closed. I tried to turn it in at the sidewalk celebration or to vote right there, and was refused on both counts by the folks running the election. I think can be easily corrected, of course.

No

No (and I never have had a problem)

## 10. Other comments and suggestions? - Responses

### Answer

Overall the process works pretty well.

Keep the small town feel but make it easier for people who are not in town to vote.

While I like the idea of online voting, I suspect that making such a system would be costly and not worth the trouble. I like the neighborhood feel of election day, but I would like the easiest possible absentee ballot system for those days I just can't make it in person. If at the last moment it turns out I can come in person, I see no reason not to be able to turn in the absentee ballot in person.

Vis-a-vis Question 1, we usually like voting in person but would like the option of voting by mail on occasion. So it is difficult to answer this as an a or b!

I think it was terrible how several people running for the Board were so negative toward the current staff and how they slandered the current staff who served us well and worked hard for us for many, many years. Elections should not be so dirty and negative. It should have really been handled much more professionally than it was.

Absentee ballots, secret and unsigned, should be returned in sealed envelopes signed on the outside (only) and recorded in a Register maintained by the Election Committee.

The online possibility is tricky. Issues with the paper ballots (absentee and on-site) include privacy, security, and verification of voter identity. Could those issues be handled by online balloting?

For now, I think that this is a possibility that is not yet ready for Village use.

no comments, no suggestion

Candidates or their designated representatives should be able to witness the vote counting. This is a basic principle of electoral transparency everywhere in the world.

Re: Question 4 -- I have no opinion on whether it'd be better to have absentee ballots go to the VMA office or to the Elections Committee. Perhaps it'd be best to allowing submission to either.

Re: Question 7 -- The statement asks for a "Yes" or "No" answer but the choices don't correspond to that. I would answer "Yes" as I think it's an important matter that should be considered. I would add that prefer leaving the elections on Thursday evening.

Other comment/suggestion -- Perhaps the Elections Committee could create and disseminate a brief primer on what is and isn't permitted in our elections, e.g., can candidates or persons acting on their behalf put flyers in mail boxes or in mail slots, what are the restrictions on yard signs. (On yard signs, we've never had any for VMA elections but there was talk about doing this in the most recent election, so it might be worth addressing the matter.)

Extend the voting hours. Too short a window and I've missed it in the past due to work. Perhaps morning and afternoon/evening hours will help some of us vote. Currently, it's about a 2 hour window of time. Nominations should also be private. I think if a nomination is made and accepted, the person who nominated can remain confidential. Past elections were influenced by the nominator as opposed to the candidate. Thanks for polling us on this. Nice work. Please keep the festive community voting sidewalk event.