

HDC Elections FAQ

1. Why do elections last 5 days?

Historically, elections were held in-person at our annual meeting. Because of the pandemic, district councils worked quickly to adapt the format to allow for voting online.

- The first year, HDC tried a 7-day voting period, which ultimately felt too long. The period was shortened to 5 days to ensure a high likelihood that at least part of the election would occur over the weekend, when many community members have more time to participate.
- As a byproduct of the transition to an online voting format, we saw increased participation from ~100-150 to more than 1,000.
- Previously, if community members weren't available on the night of the election (evening work shifts, child became ill, bad weather) they couldn't participate.
- Having a multiple-day, virtual format allows us to perform additional outreach to get out the vote, as well as allow for maximum participation by making the election more accessible.
- Community members can still request paper ballots with a stamped envelope for mailing, and anyone is welcome to call HDC at [651.695.4005](tel:651.695.4005) if they need help with voting.

2. How do you work to prevent fraud?

We have a separate panel of 3 or more board members who review the results of the election after all the votes are in. This includes verifying that addresses fall within the grids they've voted for, looking for multiple votes from the same IP-address, and reviewing votes for potential duplicates (if someone forgets and votes twice, for example.) The panel sometimes has to reach out to community members to review any discrepancies and confirm intent. While it takes a little longer, we think it's valuable to perform these extra steps. Ultimately—the same as in-person elections—we fall back on trust in our neighbors that they aren't operating maliciously. *(Plan is to link to a full copy of the written review procedure.)*

3. Why aren't official vote tallies published?

Official vote tallies are always distributed to the board, and are available to the public upon request. The primary reason we don't publish vote totals is because it can be discouraging to those who do not get elected. There have been times where a candidate loses by a substantial margin. By not publicly sharing the vote count, we can help to encourage these neighbors to participate in other ways, such as by attending our first committee meetings in May to be appointed as a community representative.