



# MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



[Marvista.org](http://Marvista.org)

Special Meeting Agenda

## Special Elections and Bylaws Committee with the Board of Directors

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 From 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82105948995>

Public Welcome

### 1. CALL TO ORDER 7:35 PM

2. ROLL CALL AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS/CONFLICTS-OF-INTEREST - roll call shall include each attending board member declaring any ex parte communications outside of their duties and conflicts of interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.

### 3. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 4. CHAIR REPORTS

- a) CHAIR – Jakob Meuser
- b) VICE-CHAIR – Martin Rubin

### 5. SPECIAL ORDERS – NONE 6. STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS - NEW - SEE [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS](#) FOR DETAILS

#### 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: March 2, 2025

[Andrew/Greg](#) to approve

<a href="#">Jakob</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Dorothy</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Megan</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Andrew</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Delaram</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Greg</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Carolyn</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Steve</a>	<a href="#">y</a>
<a href="#">Derl</a>	<a href="#">y</a>

6.2 [POLICY] BYLAWS AMENDMENT: CANDIDATE REGISTRATION. Discussion and possible action regarding motion to adjust requirements for registering as a candidate under the MVCC bylaws.

[Jakob/Greg](#)

Jakob: See motion language

Hollie: 20 signatures is no big deal, it proves you at least know 20 people in your neighborhood that would recommend you to represent the whole area. It also prevents someone from moving to the area and immediately running as a candidate.

Carolyn: Bylaws are not the only source, it was also written as a requirement when you registered to run, it wasn't hidden in the bylaws.

Greg: There are people that got 20 signatures and 7 votes. The better solution is getting more people to vote than getting signatures.

Steve Paddock: 20 signatures is not very onerous. It is too much of a hassle for people to try to vote.

Andrew Marton: Knows several people that complained they couldn't register to vote. Does not mind the 20 signatures, if you can't make that commitment and don't provide a statement, should you be running? This is a good integrity test. It is an opportunity to meet people and tell them about the council.

Delaram Ahmadyveasi: Getting 20 signatures is not a lot, but the election process has become very difficult for the general public to participate in. This 20 signature requirement is not an indicator for getting votes, or how hard people will campaign or participate. But with the election process already being so burdensome, this seems like an additional to-do list item. Some people stumble upon the registration just before the deadline.

Kelsey Figone: It is good to review bylaws and election procedures after an election. 20 signatures might not be burdensome for everyone, but it is for some people. This is the reason we don't change things over time. Sometimes systems like this become outdated and archaic and the individuals who survived it justify its continued existence by having successfully navigated the system. This was also registration during the holiday season, which was difficult.

Andrew Marton: It's misguided to think that trying to get 20 signatures is going to impede anyone from running as a candidate. Getting the 20 signatures is a fair requirement to run as a candidate.

Carolyn: 20 signatures do get us out there to alert people that an election is coming. It is a nice icebreaker. Voter turnout was bad, worse than the lack of candidates. We came in second to Venice in terms of voter turnout.

Hollie: Traditionally CD 11 has always included Mar Vista among the councils with the most votes. The voter registration and candidate registration are two different issues. We also don't have a recall process.

Delaram: It's not good, even if it's been happening, to have unopposed positions or ones that people don't run for. This would just make it easier for candidate participation, and that's what we should be going for.

Kelsey: Our responsibility is to up participation however possible. If someone doesn't bother to write a candidate statement, they probably won't get votes. The type of person capable of getting 20 signatures is not necessarily the type of person that will be on the council. Some

people get the signatures and then don't show up. Pet peeve: this is a political position, local government.

Carolyn: There are a couple of people on this conversation who got appointed who weren't part of any cliques.

Steve: I was appointed because I ran before and stayed involved, appointment is not a huge issue.

Jakob	Y
Dorothy	n
Megan	y
Andrew	n
Delaram	y
Greg	y
Carolyn	n
Steve	n
Derl	y
Kelsey	y
EP	n
Shirley	a
April	a

6y-5n-2a

### 6.3 [POLICY] BYLAWS AMENDMENT: BALLOT REQUESTS / VOTER REGISTRATION.

Discussion and possible action regarding motion to adjust requirements for requesting a ballot under the MVCC bylaws.

Jakob/Derl

Jakob: See motion language

Carolyn: Hesitant about no documentation because people start using other people's addresses. I would want in person voting and uploading only one document. We should push them to have in person voting instead. We also have the selection option. The selection process involves a single monitor.

Hollie: 10% of the NCs have selections, this is a candidate forum where the board picks the people, not the residents. Any NC with more than 500 people participating should be able to have in person voting.

Steve: We need two pieces of documentation to register to vote. The people who can vote are residents, business owners, and community interest representatives. Documentation requirements makes it difficult to prove that you work in Mar Vista and are community interest stakeholders. More worried about lack of turnout than too many votes.

Andrew: In person voting is the biggest issue at hand. In some councils, everyone is at large and that would be better for our council.

POINT OF ORDER: Meeting extended to 9PM. 13-0-0

Hollie: It's upon the committee and the chair to be sure that the ballots are correct. The live, work, or own real property requirement for self-affirmation, someone could commit fraud conceivably. I'm for keeping validation, we've had a board member who didn't really live in the area but had an address and moved out of LA during the term. Having all at-large allows one section of the NC take over.

Delaram: The different people that can vote, live, own property, or work, all have different requirements. The biggest stakeholders are the people who are heavily invested in the community but may not live here. The documentation requirement for those most involved stakeholders is a letter from the organization that proves they work in the area. That is too stringent. Also, this is very challenging for people to vote when they are techno-challenged.

Kelsey: My husband's ballot was never sent, and then did not allow a subsequent request after the deadline. Administrative burden is how easy or difficult we make it for people to access services. If you make the burden too low, you do risk some fraud. But if you raise the burden too high, people never end up using the service. This is such a niche thing, there is not a lot of people with axes too grind trying to take down our inconsequential local election. We have measures through the city to do election challenges, and one of them is for challenging illegal voting when there may be a fraud situation. It's a huge burden to figure out the proper documentation.

Andrew: The very first time I ran was very contentious, and there were issues with community interest voters uploading and submitting false documentation to register to vote.

Jakob	Y
Dorothy	a
Megan	y
Andrew	n
Delaram	y
Greg	y
Carolyn	n
Steve	y
Derl	y
Kelsey	y
EP	n
April	n

7y-4n-1a

## 7. STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS - OLD 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA

Dorothy: Voting is very cumbersome and difficult, thank you for bringing this issue up.

Hollie: I think the MVCC could improve engagement by having regular meetings rather than having them as special meetings. It used to be that bylaw submissions and changes only happened July 1<sup>st</sup> and the new board has to vote on all of this not you guys.

- *The Brown Act provides for a “part of the meeting where the public can comment on any item of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency.” The MVCC is an advisory board to the Los Angeles City Council and, as such, its jurisdiction is restricted within Los Angeles and most importantly, the Mar Vista Community. Therefore, please keep public comments within the MVCC jurisdiction. Thank you.*

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Jennifer Rafeedie, Secretaria, al (424) 256-3633 o por correo electrónico [jennifer.rafeedie@marvista.org](mailto:jennifer.rafeedie@marvista.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 2023 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THE MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

Every person wishing to address the Board must dial (XXX) XXX-XXXX, and enter XXX XXX XXX and then press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial \*9 or use the Raise Hand option, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

### SB 411 Updates:

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board/Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board/Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to one minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Committee.

**If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting. City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](https://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying).**

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Public Input at Neighborhood Council Meetings – Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comments for Items NOT on This Agenda period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during this period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Use the Zoom Link and phone numbers listed at the top of this agenda.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

#### Public Posting of Agendas -

Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Mar Vista Recreation Center: [11430 Woodbine St, Los Angeles, CA 90066](#)
- [MarVista.org](https://MarVista.org)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

#### Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](https://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

#### Public Access of Records -

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website, [MarVista.org](http://MarVista.org), or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, they may be downloaded from our website; visit [MarVista.org](http://MarVista.org) > [Council](#) > [Board](#).

#### Reconsideration and Grievance Process -

For information on MVCC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the MVCC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website, [MarVista.org](http://MarVista.org).