

NCEC Neighborhood 2011 Election Process Suggestions
April 16th 2011 Meeting Suggestions Options
(2011)

(Proposed changes to the 2009 elections process are indicated by underlining)

At the April 16th, 2011 meeting Neighborhoods will be asked to vote on three scenarios related to the 2011 NCEC election process. The NCEC's Selection and Diversity Task Force (SDTF) endorses one of the options for each scenario. This endorsement is based on outreach and research results that highlight a need for a clear and easy-to-understand process that includes a wide variety of participants.

Vote #1: General Election Process:

Four possible options are proposed for Neighborhood consideration.
(Choosing one of the noted alternatives will be the next vote, the alternatives are the same for each of the four election process options)

The NCEC SDTF endorses option 4.

Option 1: Elector Voting by Neighborhood Organization

Neighborhood Organizations identify Electors and an Alternate:

1. Electors must be authorized by their neighborhood organization to cast a vote at the election meeting.
2. Candidates may not be electors.
3. Electors must declare all relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

OR

3. Electors shall not have any relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

Option 2: Elector Voting by Neighborhood

Each Neighborhood Organization will identify an Elector and an Alternate:

1. Electors must be authorized by their neighborhood organization to cast a vote at the election meeting.
2. Candidates may not be electors.
3. Electors must declare all relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships.

OR

3. Electors shall not have any relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

Option 3: ALL Neighborhood Board Member Voting

Board members of Neighborhood Organizations vote:

1. All neighborhood organization board members will each be allowed to cast 1 vote.
2. In order to vote, board members must be present at the election.
3. Board members must be authorized by their neighborhood organization to cast a vote at the election meeting.
4. Candidates may not cast votes.
5. Voting board members must declare all relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

OR

5. Voting board members shall not have any relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

Option 4: FOUR Neighborhood Members Voting **(SDTF Endorsed Option)**

Board members of Neighborhood Organizations vote:

1. Four members from each neighborhood will each be allowed to cast 1 vote. (Recommended board members)
2. In order to vote, board members must be present at the election.
3. Those chosen to vote must be authorized by their neighborhood organization to cast a vote at the election meeting.
4. Candidates may not be a vote casting board member.
5. Voting board members must declare all relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

OR

5. Voting board members shall not have any relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships

Vote #2: Relevant Affiliations:

The NCEC SDTF endorses Option B.

Options A: Voting board members must declare all relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships.

OR

Option B: Voting board members shall not have any relevant affiliations with any candidate in their voting district. Relevant affiliations include close family (spouse, domestic partner or dependent), financial and reporting relationships. (SDTF Endorsed Option)

Vote #3: District Elections:

The NCEC SDTF suggests that a NCEC District be allowed to choose to hold their own election within an open election period or take part in a central election meeting facilitated by the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department. The central election meeting will be held on the last day of the open election period – from _____ to _____

If a NCEC district chooses to hold their own election, NCR will provide the necessary materials needed to do so.

If districts chose to hold their district election separate from the Central Election they will need to coordinate the following:

- Execution of Election Details/Voting Rules
- Check-in Station
- Facilitators
- Reporting of the Voting Results to the NCR department.

The NCR department will provide the following:

- Application and collection of applications.
- Voters guides
- Questions for candidates for the night of the election
- Posting of the district election details on the 2011 NCEC Neighborhood Elections Website.

Option A: Districts can choose to host their own elections **(SDTF Endorsed Option)**

OR

Option B: Districts cannot choose to host their own elections.

NCEC Suggested Election Rules for Election Night:

Selected by lot, every candidate will have an opportunity to give a brief introduction (up to 3 minutes). Following candidate introductions, the question-and-answer period will begin.

Questions must be either pre-submitted or received in writing from the floor. Questions from the floor must be written on note cards provided at the meeting. Facilitators will consolidate questions and ensure they are not duplicative and apply to all district candidates. All candidates will be asked the same questions.

The NCEC neighborhood representative election process will be governed by the following:

- Each district will hold their individual district election in designated election areas.
- All registered elector/alternate electors (Board Members) eligible for voting will be seated in their district's designated election area.
- District facilitators will open and close the district election.
- The floor will be closed once elections begin allowing only electors/alternates (Board Members) to be in the caucus area. The floor can be reopened for further discussion if another vote is required.
- Endorsements or testimonials are not allowed.
- Nominations from the floor or write-in nominations are not allowed.
- Absentee ballots are not allowed.
- Proxy voting is not allowed.
- All votes will be cast via secret ballot.

Voting Results -

- The candidate must receive at least 50% of the votes in order to be verified by the facilitator as the winner.
- If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, no winner will be declared and another round of voting will take place.
- In any additional round of voting, the top three candidates with the most votes in the last voting round will move forward and have their name placed on the ballot for the next round of voting.
- Voting will occur until a winner is declared and verified with at least 50% of the votes.
- There is no limit to the number of voting rounds a district may have; however, ***all district winners must be declared by TIME on DATE.***
- Once a winner has been verified and declared, the facilitator will post the name of the candidate on the NCEC Neighborhood Representative poster.

Questions:

Neighborhood Organizations may submit questions to be asked of candidates on the election night. Questions must be submitted by _____ to community.engagement@ci.minneapolis.mn.us