The Inside Scoop



March, 2025

Dear District 3 Resident,

My name is Peter De Hoff, your current City Council Representative for Poway's District 3. This monthly-ish newsletter one way of keeping you informed about some city government activities. My goal is to provide clear, accurate updates on current topics so you can stay engaged and informed.

Let me know if you'd like any further refinements!

Recall of Councilmember Blain – Begins



On March 18th, Councilmember Blain was officially served with a Notice of Intent to Recall by the Committee to Recall Tony Blain (https://www.recalltonyblain.com/), a group representing a broad cross-section of Poway's civic leadership. Reportedly, the organizers gathered about 40% more signatures than required, reflecting strong community support for the effort. You can visit the website above to learn more about the reasons behind the recall and how you can get involved if you're interested.
Based on my understanding of the relevant election code, here are some key points regarding this recall process:

1. Only registered voters from District 2 can sign the petition, although anyone can assist in collecting signatures.
2. Once the petition language is finalized, the committee will have approximately 90 days to gather around 2,500 signatures—just over 25% of the registered voters in District 2.
3. If the required signatures are validated, a special recall election will be held for District 2 voters.
4. If Councilmember Blain is recalled, the seat would be declared vacant and filled either by appointment or a special election.
   (See "Looking Ahead" for some important updates on this process.)

Interestingly, while Councilmember Blain is collecting signatures to recall me, he apparently has started up a recall effort against Mayor Steve Vaus. So, if he knocks at your door, these may be the reasons.

CalFire Fire Hazard Updated Maps – Released

The long-anticipated Cal Fire hazard maps have been updated, and as expected, a larger portion of Poway is now classified within the *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone*. Properties in this zone are subject to stricter building codes that will impact future construction and improvements. In addition, Cal Fire has introduced two new classifications: *High Fire Hazard Severity Zone* and *Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone*, though it's not yet clear how these zones will affect building regulations. You can check how your property is classified under the updated map—and compare it to the previous 2009 version—by visiting the link below:

https://poway.org/1162/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones

While fire hazard zones influence local building codes, they are just one factor insurance companies use in their own risk assessment maps to determine fire insurance rates. Unfortunately, the recent major wildfires will likely drive rates even higher, and we're all feeling the impact.

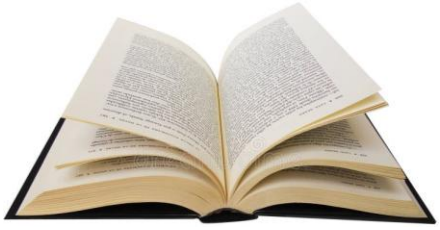
To mitigate these risks, Poway remains committed to proactive fire safety education, with a particular focus on ember protection—since embers are the leading cause of home loss during wildfires. The next community workshop, where these new Cal Fire map updates will be discussed is scheduled for:

Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Poway City Hall Council Chambers,
(note that due to some technical issues with SPAM filters, this email may have arrived too late for you to attend this meeting)

On May 6th, the CalFire maps will be adopted by the city during that City Council meeting. Our ultimate goal is to work together to classify all of the communities in Poway as "FireSafe," which would help stabilize, or even lower, our fire insurance rates over time. It's not an easy task, but it's a worthwhile investment that benefits us all.

Looking Ahead

Election Code Changes – Council Initiated Item



In response to public feedback and discussions surrounding the recent District 1 appointment, I've worked with Mayor Vaus to propose a change to how Poway fills council vacancies.

Currently, like most municipalities in California, Poway typically appoints someone to fill a vacant council seat. During my research leading up to the last appointment, I explored the rationale behind this approach. While appointments often make sense, I've concluded that in certain circumstances, calling for a *special election* would be more appropriate than simply appointing someone to serve out the remainder of the term.

Specifically, I believe that if a council seat is vacated at some point *before* the start of the third year of the term, a special election should be held to fill that seat. However, implementing this change will require an update to Poway's election rules.

My hope is that this proposal will be approved for discussion at the **April 1st, 2025** meeting, with a vote scheduled for **April 15th, 2025**. During the discussion, the exact timing threshold—or any other potential adjustments—will be debated and refined in open session.

Your Feedback Matters

I want to hear from you about what interests you most for future newsletters.
Your input will help shape future updates.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and engaged. Together, we can continue making Poway a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Peter De Hoff

Poway District 3 City Council Representative

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If you have a question or concern regarding governance in Poway, please email me at pdehoff@poway.org

Paid for by Peter De Hoff

Paid for by De Hoff for Poway City Council District 3, 2026
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