

BMPOA ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

BOARD ELECTIONS

BMPOA Board elections begin with candidate nominations (June 1 – July 1), followed by establishment of the slate of candidates (by 3rd Sunday in July), a member USPS mail-out information package (at least 14 days prior to elections), and elections at the BMPOA Lodge (3rd Sunday in August) during the BMOA Annual Membership Meeting.



Elections information is published on the BMPOA website **Annual Elections** page: <https://bmpoa.org/annual-elections>.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open June 1 – July 1. The Nominations period is announced to BMPOA members by June 1 via: The BMPOA website (bmpoa.org), BMPOA subscriber email blast, a newsletter or postcard USPS mailing, and a notice posted on the Lodge door.

Nominations are managed by the Nominating Committee.¹ Property owners express an interest in being nominated by contacting the Committee Chair. Nominations are solicited, received and evaluated by the Nominating Committee. The Committee seeks and recommends the most qualified and available candidates from among property owners. Responsibilities of each Board position are described in the BMPOA bylaws available on our website bmpoa.org.

At the end of the nominations period, the Nominating Committee determines the slate of candidates, provides the slate to the Board by the 3rd Sunday of July and candidate information is posted on the bmpoa.org website.

¹ The Nominations Committee is Chaired by a Board Officer or Director chosen by the Board President. No fewer than two additional property owners are elected by the membership. The Chair and members serve a two-year term. In year two, the Committee nominates new members for election to the Committee and the President selects a new Chair for the next two years.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Once the slate of candidates is established, the annual elections are announced via a USPS Annual Meeting & Elections Newsletter mailing at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting. The elections announcement is also publicized via the website, subscriber email blast and notice is posted on the Lodge door. The USPS mailing includes the slate of candidates, a proxy form and instructions. A sample proxy form (watermarked “Sample”) must be posted on the bmpoa.org website on the Annual Elections page.

A BMPOA member eligible to vote may authorize another BMPOA member eligible to vote to be their proxy and cast votes on their behalf by completing the proxy form.² Proxies may only be granted to another member of the Association; no proxy may be granted to or exercised by a non-member. The person authorizing the proxy is known as the “principal” and the person being authorized is the “proxyholder.” The completed proxy form may be hand-carried to the Annual Meeting by the proxyholder or mailed via the USPS **at least 7 days before the Annual Meeting**. The mailing address for returning a completed proxy form is: BMPOA, P.O. Box 114, Linden, VA 22642. Hand-carried, completed proxy forms are collected by the Nominating Committee members upon entry to the Lodge for validation.

Ballots to elect candidates are not included in the mailing; they are distributed at the Annual Meeting to verified property owners and proxyholders.

Votes are cast at the Annual Meeting on the 3rd Sunday of August.

Voting BMPOA members and hand-carried proxies are validated by the Nominating Committee upon entry to the Lodge.³ Validated voting members are provided one ticket for their vote and one ticket if they are proxy voting for another member. The tickets are exchanged for ballots at the start of elections.

One owner of record for a property gets one ballot and one vote, regardless of how many lots they own in the Subdivision or how many individuals or entities are part of that ownership. Members who have been authorized to proxy another member’s vote will receive a second ballot to complete on behalf of the principal member who authorized the proxyholder.

² The term “eligible” is defined by BMPOA Bylaws: “Each property owner of record shall have one vote regardless of the number of lots owned within the Subdivision or the number of persons or entities comprising said ownership.” In other words, there can’t be more than one ballot cast for a jointly-owned property either in-person or by proxy.

³ The Nominating Committee uses the official roster of property owners maintained by the Board to validate eligible voters.

The presiding Board officer will announce the start of voting per the annual meeting agenda. Nominating Committee members collect the voting tickets, exchanging one ballot per ticket. Voting members are given time (typically 20 minutes) to complete their ballots. If a voter incorrectly fills out a ballot, they may exchange the incorrect ballot for a new one before ballots are collected. Incorrect ballot votes—for example, selecting two candidates for the same Board position—will not be counted. This applies only to the incorrect vote. If a second vote for another Board position is correctly completed on the same ballot, the second vote is counted.

Members of the Nominating Committee collect the ballots and proceed to the Lodge foyer to count the votes and confirm the number of ballots received is equal to the number of tickets received. Once the votes are tallied the Nominating Committee presents the results to the presiding Board officer. The Presiding officer announces the results.⁴

present those candidates, call for election by acclamation and request members “acclaim” the unopposed candidates are elected by an enthusiastic hand-clap. Once elections are complete the presiding officer adjourns the meeting.

⁴ An unopposed candidate or candidates may be voted on by acclamation and not by ballot, as stipulated in the Bylaws section 7.1 ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION, where the presiding officer may ask members “acclaim” the unopposed candidate or candidates by an enthusiastic hand-clap.