

Subject: 2018 Visioning Report - Part 5
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From: Vail Homeowners Association
To: ashleigh@eagleriverassociates.com
Category: Northwoods

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Poll voting has less turn out than absentee/mail-in balloting. Vail voting needs to be more accurate and accessible.

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Visioning Report - Part 5

March 1, 2018

Openness to sharing the benefits of new community initiatives across an ever-broadening spectrum of the community is important to enduring success. VHA is in agreement with the Town's perspective that there needs to be greater willingness to enter into constructive and timely discussions about controversial or emotional issues with restraint and respect among the participants.

Public Governance Reforms:

- The Town of Vail is requested by VHA to expand participation and the training of future community leaders through the removal of its thumb from the information scale by conducting its business and affairs in impartial, transparent (via televised Internet accessible) public hearings of processes for all boards, commissions and committees. It should avoid practices which encourage select interest groups to promote agendas through favored status, opacity and partnerships that lessen ethical, arm's length, revolving door, conflict of interest and inclusionary norms, standards and obligations. The same request is made of other organizations and institutions responsible for setting the ethics and vision for the community.

• Deferred maintenance and budget shortfalls: [The indication of stalling sales tax receipts in recent months caused VHA to raise the issue of budgeting](#) for the replacement or upgrading of major public facilities like the Town's two parking structures and municipal building, among others. The TOV, currently, does not budget beyond a 15 year timeframe. Concern is that without a long term strategy, short term spending could deplete financial resources that should be set aside for longer term needs.

Election Balloting:



• Town of Vail Town Council Election: The Association sees progress with the TOV's effort to expand its mail balloting process. The prior Council established a permanent list for absentee voters eliminating the practice of requiring voters to request an absentee ballot for each election. The change yielded a dividend with a [71% voter participation rate for absentee ballots but only a 14% rate for poll voting](#). The combined participation rate of absentee and poll voters was 22% from a base of 4,374 registered voters. The turnout overall was consistent with recent regular municipal elections. [VHA provided insight into a candidate's views](#) that was distributed to its constituencies through an online question and answer dialogue with the candidates. The Association does not recommend specific candidates; it advised on voting tactics to retain or change the 4-3 split which dominates the Council voting patterns on important community issues.



• Vail Recreation District Tax Increase Election: The [VRD, because of a Colorado tax payer bill of rights \(TABOR\) requirement that applies to tax increases, conducted a mail ballot election](#). The pool of 4,458 voters was derived from a property owners list provided by the Eagle County Assessor and a list of Eagle County registered voters from the Clerk & Recorder. Those eligible to vote are registered voters who reside in Colorado and own property within the recreation district or are registered voters living in the District. Election officials can confirm the voting status of eligible property owners not registered to vote in Eagle County through a statewide voter list maintained by the office of the Colorado Secretary of State.

The tax increase was approved (827/575). Nearly 10% (442) of the ballots were returned undelivered, one of the downsides of mail balloting. The voter participation rate was nearly 32%, 10% more than the Town of Vail's turnout with a difference of 84 in the pool of registered voters.

Collaborative Initiatives:

• A series of VHA reports caused collaborative working relationships with property owners in areas affected by proposals that would change uses or increase density, cause environmental degradation and would have the potential of compounding public safety, traffic and congestion issues or changing the character of surrounding neighborhoods. These relationships favorably altered or tempered the outcomes of the decisions under consideration. VHA serves as an independent voice of analysis, advocacy and commentary for the Vail community.

We trust that the Vail Homeowners Association engages with the issues you believe are important to sustaining the value of your investment in the Vail community. If not, please let us know.

We speak up and speak out when we see the need to inform and motivate constructive actions. Our efforts are aimed to assist the community in taking advantage of the opportunities and challenges needing to be addressed. We see a greater willingness for the community to join together to face unforeseen and long standing challenges.

On behalf of the VHA Board of Directors, we would like to urge you to support the efforts of the Vail Homeowners Association. Thank you for the support you have given us, and we look forward to continuing our mutually supportive relationship to make Vail the very best that it can be.

Community Service Links:

[Ski and Snowboard Safety](#)

Please provide us with Community links that you find useful.

VHA **Membership:**

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Post Office Box 238 Vail, Colorado 81658

Telephone: (970) 827-5680 Email: vha@vail.net Website: www.vailhomeowners.com

Vail Homeowners Association | PO Box 238, Vail, CO 81658

[Unsubscribe ashleigh@eagleriverassociates.com](mailto:ashleigh@eagleriverassociates.com)

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