

# NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION CHALLENGE FORM

I hereby submit my challenge for the	Venice
Neighborhood Council Election held on	05/18/2014
I affirm that I am a stakeholder in this Neighborhood Council and that I have personal knowledge of the following challenge.	check here
Name	Robin Rudisill
Business Name (if applicable):	
Address	3003 Ocean Front Walk Venice, CA 90291 United States 🇺🇸
Phone	<a href="tel:310-721-2343">310-721-2343</a>
Email	wildrudi@mac.com
REASON FOR CHALLENGE:	Concerns regarding Ballots Eligibility of Voter

Please state the facts for your challenge.  
(max 500 words)

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Bylaws define the areas included within the VNC boundaries to include Venice High School (VHS), among other schools serving the Venice Community. It is clearly not correct to say that any VHS student must "declare a stake in the neighborhood" in order to vote (if they do not live in Venice), as the grounds of VHS is specifically included within the VNC boundaries and therefore it's a given that all VHS students have a substantial and ongoing participation within the VNC boundaries and thus do not need to affirm their community interest. Also, it is clearly not correct to say that certain VHS students cannot vote and thus that certain VHS students are not equal to other VHS students for purposes of voting within the VNC, as this would be equivalent to a violation of a citizen's constitutional right to vote, and such an interpretation of the Bylaws could even be construed as a sort of "taxation without representation, and it could also be deemed to be discrimination based on economic class and/or race. Thus, the only possible conclusion is that all VHS students are Non-Community Interest Stakeholders for purposes of voting for all Board seats in a VNC election. Even without consideration of all of the above factors, without any indication to the contrary or other limiting language in the Bylaws, the definition of "work" would follow the standard definition in the dictionary, and would naturally include such activities as schoolwork, tutoring others, providing sports injury services to teams, other volunteer work, homework (a very large amount of which is done by students on school grounds), etc. There is no need for any clarification or change or enhancement of the

definition of work in the VNC Bylaws, as it includes schoolwork and other work that the students do on campus the way it is currently written. Also, saying that a VHS student who does not live in Venice can only vote as a Community Interest Stakeholder would be the same effect as if VHS had not been specifically added and included within the VNC boundaries, which defeats the main purpose and intent of including VHS in the boundaries of the VNC as it does not change any rights for the students. If a student is allowed to comment on a VNC action, policy or position or to be involved in committee work, etc., they should be allowed to vote as an equal member, for all Board positions. Also, if any other Neighborhood Councils exclude students who do not live in its boundaries from the definition of non-Community Interest Stakeholder by saying that "work" doesn't include the work they do at school, that same interpretation need not apply to the VNC. In fact, the VNC has several election procedures that differ from those of other Neighborhood Councils. All VHS students should be given an equal voice in VNC matters that may affect their school.

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Please state your desired remedy. (max 100 words)

Allow all Venice High School students over 16 years of age, or a junior or senior in high school, to be provided a full ballot so that they can vote in the VNC elections for all Board seats, regardless of where they live, as they "work" in Venice. As this is a clarification of a department interpretation and not a change to an "election rule," this clarification is effective with the current VNC election.

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Attach all supporting documentation:

[ElectionChallengeDocs.pdf](#)

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