

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Petition objections, and a plea for the common good
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009 1:09 PM
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Conversation: Petition objections, and a plea for the common good

host_name

DATELINE: DEER PARK, TUESDAY, FEB. 2

Greetings, Neighbors

“Let the games begin!” is already a tardy comment to be made. Yesterday, before the 5pm deadline, we hear that 14 objections were filed against petitions. While we do not know (we cannot examine the objections until the candidates have been formally served), we would expect that ALL candidates have been filed against.

And so begins what is perhaps the most ugly period in the two-year election cycle. For those of you who aren't familiar with all this, the bottom line is this. YOU, the registered, potentially are about to be disenfranchised. In other words, the only public expression that you could count on in this village could conceivably be voided. You see, should the Election Board so decide, something as petty as failing to number your pages or stapling them together in the wrong manner can get a candidate tossed off the ballot. In other words, one man's (or woman's) technical error is another's fatal failing.

By the way, this goes on everywhere, but in a town of 3,000, it is much more bitter and personal.

The officers of Deer Park Neighbors have sent this Letter to the Editor to local and metropolitan newspapers, the opinions section being one place we are all welcom to speak out. Much to our amusement, we did have a typo in the earliest submissions. Near the end, we misspelled “chance” as “change.” That is ironic, but nevertheless the truth. President Gifford, this IS your chance for a change in Deer Park.

Heard it through the grapevine

Monday, Feb. 2. No surprises here. We would expect nothing less in Deer Park: There are (allegedly) more objections to candidates' petitions than there are candidates—two for president and six for trustee. That inspired 14 formal

objections, to be heard in a few days by the Election Board.

For those who couldn't care less about procedure, that board is comprised of (the incumbent) President, the longest-serving trustee and the village clerk, who serves at the pleasure of the president. Not their fault; it's code.

And this is the code that tries men's souls, not to mention the voters and the fourth estate.

Look, even if President Scott Gifford were not running, the process (as prescribed) cannot fail to be biased—and we do *not* impute that Scott and the clerk can't be fair.

They can. But conceivably, “the loyal opposition” could be bumped from the ballot, leaving Scott and his running mates unopposed. Or worse: Scott alone survives the objects, runs unaccompanied and unopposed and, upon “winning,” names three trustees to serve with him.

Scott, this your chance. Toss out *all* objections, and let the campaign proceed, full throttle, with two candidates for each position. Identify every objection for what it is, a form without substance, and let the vine bear its fruit, the voice of the electorate.

Anything else, and you might win the argument but lose the case, strangling your own legacy as the electoral process is poisoned.

Deborah and Al Barry, 847-867-1867

We here at the head of Deer Park Neighbors are waiting, as are many, many others close to the candidates on both sides, for commonsense to prevail. But we have our deepest doubts. So here we ask the rest of the candidates, all seven of you who are NOT on the Election Board, to *join us in asking for this election to go forward with ALL EIGHT CANDIDATES.*

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OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATING PETITIONS

[10 ILCS 5/10-8 through 10-10.1]

FILING OBJECTION PETITION:

Nomination papers shall be deemed to be valid unless objections are filed in writing (an original and one copy) within five business days after the last day for filing nomination papers. The objector's petitions are filed with the same office in which the nominating petitions are filed.

PROCESSING OBJECTIONS:

Not later than 12:00 noon on the second business day after receipt of the objector's petition, the election authority or local election official, shall transmit by registered mail or receipted personal delivery the Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers and original objector's petition to the chairman of the proper electoral board designated in Section 10-9, or his authorized agent, and shall transmit a copy by registered mail or receipted personal delivery of the objector's petitions, to the candidate whose Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers are objected to, addressed to the place of residence designated in said Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CHAIRMAN OF ELECTORAL BOARD:

Within 24 hours after receipt of the objector's petition, the chairman of the electoral board shall send a call by registered or certified mail to each of the members of the electoral board, the objector, and the candidate, and shall also cause the Sheriff of the county or counties in which such officers and persons reside to serve a copy of such call upon each of the officers and persons.

ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING:

The meeting of the electoral board shall not be less than three nor more than five days after receipt of the objector's petition by the chairman of the electoral board. The Municipal Officers Electoral

Board, the Township Officers Electoral Board, and the Education Officers Electoral Board may meet at the location (other than their county courthouse) where the governing body of the municipality, township, or school or community college district, respectively, holds its regularly scheduled meetings, if that location is available; provided that voter records may be removed from the offices of an election authority only at the discretion and under the supervision of the election authority. [10 ILCS 5/10-10]

JUDICIAL REVIEW FILED:

Within 10 days after the decision of the Electoral Board, the candidate or objector aggrieved by the decision may file a petition for Judicial Review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Court hearings are to be held within 30 days after the filing of the petition and a decision delivered promptly thereafter.

NO JUDICIAL REVIEW:

If no petition for Judicial Review has been filed within 10 days after the decision of the Electoral Board, the Electoral Board shall transmit a copy of its ruling together with the original Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers or petitions and the original objector's petitions to the officers or board with whom they were on file and such officer or board shall abide by and comply with the ruling so made to all intents and purposes.
[10 ILCS 5/10-8, 10-9, 10-10, 10-10.1]

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