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 Please send public comments to: Melinda.Bloom@seattle.gov
 Please call 206-684-0228 with questions.

DON

Director's Rule 3-2023

Agency: City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods	Page 1 of 2	Supersedes: Clerk file #286633
	Publication: September 27, 2023	Effective: October 11, 2023
Subject: Revising the Election Procedures for the Ballard Avenue Landmark District Board.	Code and Section Reference: SMC 25.16.040	
	Type of Rule: Code Interpretation and Procedures	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 25.16.040	
Index: SMC 25.16.040	Approved	Date <hr/> Jenifer Chao, Interim Director Department of Neighborhoods

BACKGROUND

[SMC 25.16.040](#) directs DON to administer board member elections annually for the Ballard Avenue Landmark District (BLD), according to the district's adopted Election Procedures for the Ballard Avenue Landmark District Board.

BLD-adopted election procedures provide guidance for the execution of the election to select board members for the five elected positions on the board. Historically, the election was

conducted in-person at a location within the Landmark District from 2 pm – 7 pm. In 2021 and 2022, pursuant to a Director’s Rule, the BLD board elections were conducted by mail only due to health, safety, and logistical considerations related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Participation in the 2021 and 2022 mail-in elections was high, exceeding the voter turnout during prior in-person elections.

MODIFIED ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

[SMC 25.16.040](#) authorizes the DON director to modify adopted election procedures in consultation with the board. The modification of the election procedures would result in making mail-in voting permanent for the BLD board election. This change would be consistent with the board’s approval of a permanent mail-in election, would accommodate individuals who are eligible to vote but are not available to cast a ballot in-person on the day of the election, and would be consistent with the method for voting in the General Election in the state of Washington.

Read the proposed modifications on the DON website at:

<https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/historic-preservation/historic-districts/ballard-avenue-landmark-district#elections>