



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Julie McCulloch
President, SIPOA
Board of Directors*

It's that time of year again to put out the call for all property owners to do their civic duty and cast their votes in preparation for the Annual Meeting!

Per our Bylaws, each property owner in good standing is entitled to one vote per property owned. Elections to the Board and Nominating Committee, and approval of the SIPOA annual budget, require a "yes"

vote of the majority of valid votes cast at an Annual meeting at which a quorum is present.

We have more than 2,500 properties on Seabrook Island, so more than 1,100 votes must be cast in order to reach the required quorum. Now, you might not think reaching that minimum threshold is a big deal, but it seems like every year we run around like chickens with our heads cut off, trying to drum up interest and enthusiasm to vote in order to reach a quorum. And sometimes, we just squeak by.

Not only is this chaos an unproductive use of staff's time, but it puts in jeopardy the smooth running of the island if the budget is not approved, and risks the time, effort and unneeded expense to reschedule another annual meeting and re-issue voting materials.

There are five (5) candidates running for four (4) three (3) year Board of Director positions. There is one (1) candidate running for a one (1) year position to fill out a Director's

unexpired term. For the Nominating Committee, there are three (3) candidates running for two (2) two (2) year positions. Each candidate's bio has been released on Tidelines. Check out the blog at: tidelinesblog.com.

In addition, the candidates for all positions have been interviewed on podcasts, which are available on tidelinesblog.com. And I hope you got a chance to attend the Meet the Candidates night held on January 7th.

Candidate bios and budget information are also included in the Annual Meeting materials that will be distributed in mid-January. Property Owners who are registered for e-voting will find the materials in the link included with the e-vote notification email sent in mid-January. There will also be a website link with all the meeting materials. Watch for additional information via the SIPOA eblast.

Even with all the candidate information that's provided, I

MEET THE CANDIDATES

often have people say to me, "I just vote for people I know. If I don't know them, I just vote for one or two people, rather than the whole slate." As I tell them, voting here isn't much different than voting in a general election. Do we personally know those people? Usually not. Do we know their backgrounds? Usually not, but information is available for our education. Do we know their views on various issues? Sometimes, but again, information is available for our education.

Our election is no different and property owners owe it to

themselves and their neighbors to get educated and VOTE for an entire slate. These candidates have raised their hands to help in the governance of our island and we owe it to them to vote. As well, there is plenty of information about the components and rationale for the 2019 budget, which reflects a continued focus on infrastructure, drainage, personnel and long-term budget needs for important capital projects.

Be a proud Seabrook Island property owner. Get out and VOTE!!