

Co-op Coalition Survey: Voting Methods

Thanks to the 16 members who took the time to respond to this survey. Following is the original question and the table of responses.

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In a message dated 12/20/2016 2:26 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, CooperativesDC@aol.com writes:

We have a series of questions by a Coalition member concerning voting. The questions are below. Because of the holidays, please reply by lucky Friday, January 13. Thanks and best wishes for the holidays!

Mike O'Dell, Director
 DC Cooperative Housing Coalition

You are receiving this email blind copied to protect your privacy.

Our co-op is reviewing our policies on Proxy and Absentee balloting as well as prospects for online voting. We would like to determine whether any of the coops in the Coalition have initiated or are contemplating online voting and how they address absentee owners in general. We think these are issues that are applicable Coalition-wide and increasingly important in today's fast moving technology powered world.

Absentee Owners:

- (1) Is balloting permitted through a proxy process, mail-in option, email ballots, online option or not at all?
- (2) Are there any By-law or specific regulations of a coop that would limit any of the listed options, or any legal limitations pertaining to absentee voters?

Online Voting:

- (3) Has any coop allowed online voting and, if so, how does it work?
- (4) Has any coop drawn upon methods used in the corporate world where voters are significantly more widespread and numerous or are more simple and direct processes used or being contemplated?

Thanks for your help!

<50 units	(1) & (2) Our by-laws permit proxy voting, but provide little detail. (3) & (4) We would allow voting by email, but have never formally done so. We are too small to worry about widespread ownership.
<50 units	Our bylaws indicate that shareholders vote at the annual meeting and any special meeting. Proxies are permitted. There are no limits on the amount of proxies. We have no provision for on line voting.
<50 units	1) We have a proxy process. It doesn't matter how the ballot gets to the meeting (e-mail, mail, etc.) as long as they get there. Most common method is just leaving a copy with somebody who is going to the general meeting. 2) No. 3) The board occasionally conducts business by e-mail voting, but our board is small and relatively responsive. No attempt at on-line building-wide voting at this time. 4) Not sure what this question means. We commonly vote in our board by unanimous consent at the annual meeting where the majority of members are

	physically present and some send in proxies. Because we have less than 40 voters and only meet as shareholders once per year we have not needed to look for more complicated options.
<50 units	Our co-op does allow proxies for our Annual Meeting and they are often used by resident owners unable to attend the meeting if a measure for consideration has been circulated prior to the meeting. We have a reasonable turnout for our meetings and do not have a problem reaching quorum count. Our By-laws specify the rules for proxy voting, and I can provide the text upon request. We have never considered online voting on issues put to membership. Our Board, however, often votes over email on issues that come up between meetings or on issues that have been discussed at a meeting and require additional research prior to calling for a vote.
<50 units	<p><u>Absentee Owners:</u></p> <p>1) [Our] Cooperative allows proxy voting. We do not allow mail-in, email or online ballots.</p> <p>2) There is no limit to the number of proxy votes in a meeting. We've had some owners who don't live in the building but they show up at the annual meeting and vote. I answered the question regarding any absentee voting, including those members who live in the building but cannot make it to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Online Voting:</u></p> <p>3) We have not allowed online voting.</p> <p>4) We do not use methods used in corporate world.. we are "old school"!</p>
50 - 99 units	<p><u>Absentee Owners:</u></p> <p>(1) Hard Copy Proxy</p> <p>(2) Hard Copy Proxy is the Only Absentee Voting Option.</p> <p><u>Online Voting:</u></p> <p>(3) Online Voting Not Currently Permitted</p> <p>(4) No Current Plans to Change Voting Process.</p>
50 - 99 units	<p><u>Absentee Owners:</u></p> <p>(1) Voting is permitted at Membership meetings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Voting in person. (One vote per unit regardless of the number of shares associated with each unit.) -Voting via absentee ballot. (Identified & signed outer envelope with anonymous inner envelope containing the ballot.) -Voting via proxy. (Proxy letter signed by the Member and presented by his/her proxy at the meeting.) <p>(2) There is currently no provision for e-mail voting. Members may e-mail a scanned absentee ballot to the Secretary which is printed and delivered to the meeting. Members may e-mail a scanned signed proxy letter that is printed and presented at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Online Voting:</u></p> <p>(3) We have no provision for absentee Members to vote online.</p> <p>(4) We are not contemplating any change in Member voting procedures at this time.</p>
50 - 99 units	<p><u>Absentee Owners:</u></p> <p>(1) Written proxies are allowed to establish quorum and vote.</p> <p>(2) None.</p> <p><u>Online Voting:</u></p> <p>(3) In person voting or voting by written proxy only.</p>

	(4) None.
50 - 99 units	<p>Absentee Owners:</p> <p>(1) We allow votes through proxy via mail-in ballot. (2) No limitations</p> <p>Online Voting:</p> <p>(3) N/A (4) N/A</p>
100 – 199 units	<p>1. Yes, with a signed and witnessed proxy assigned to a physically present shareholder on the meeting. 2. Not sure what this means, but yes the by-laws define how proxies can be used. 3. No. 4. No.</p>
200+ units	<p>Absentee Owners:</p> <p>(1) Yes to all (2) No</p> <p>Online Voting:</p> <p>(3) [Our co-op] Has Not (4) [Our co-op] is very simple.</p>
200+ units	<p>1) Yes we allow proxies. We receive them in person, via the mail, email and fax. 2) Nothing in our bylaws that I'm aware of that limit these options. 3) No 4) N/A</p>
200+ units	<p>Absentee Owners:</p> <p>(1) We allow proxies, mail in option and email. (2) Not that we are aware of, but we have never considered online voting.</p> <p>Online Voting:</p> <p>(3) no (4) no</p>
200+ units	<p>Absentee Owners:</p> <p>(1) Ballots, along with blank proxy forms, are mailed to absent owners and hand-delivered at the front desk to resident owners. Owners may have no more than 2 proxies (a change that was made in 2003 to reduce from a maximum of 5 to 2 proxies). Proxies are used at the annual meeting to establish a quorum and to vote during the meeting. Ballots are mailed by both absentee and resident owners to an outside organization responsible for counting and reporting the results of voting. (2) The only restriction is on the number of proxies any one owner may have.</p> <p>Online Voting:</p> <p>(3) We have not considered on-line voting. (4) No</p>
200+ units	<p>Absentee Owners</p> <p>1. Mail-in Only 2. No</p> <p>Online Voting</p> <p>1. We don't have online voting but would be interested in hearing how this works</p>
200+ units	<p>Absentee Owners:</p> <p>(1) We allow mail in and proxy</p>

(2) Your bylaws may specify or limit voting options. You may need to review that with an attorney.

Online Voting:

(3) No although we have allowed overseas members to deliver their (scanned) ballots by email to the election chairperson when required by special circumstances.

(4) I don't know what you mean by question 4