

From: [Sean J.](#)
To: [Al Royle](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Larry May](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Lisa Natusch](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: NO to Resolution Appointing New Council Members
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:09:50 PM

Dear Council Members, City Clerk, and City Attorney,

As a town resident and home owner, I'd like to send in my objection to appointing new council members in lieu of a general election due to the following:

- We learned that there are at least two write-in candidates that have been identified, so we must ensure that an open, democratic election is conducted so that all potential candidates can be considered.
- The special meeting to pass the resolution to appoint new council members has not been well publicized to the town community, hence depriving most town residents the opportunity to voice their objections to the resolution.

We understand the motivation to save money through bypassing an election, though it is of utmost importance to uphold our democratic process. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Regards, Sean Jiam

From: [Hillsborough Citizens Alliance](#)
To: [Lisa Natusch](#); [Al Royse](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Larry May](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: Opposed to Resolution Appointing Council Members
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:28:48 PM

Please enter this comment into the Public Record.

Mayor Royse, Vice Mayor Krolik and Council Members,

While a strong proponent of fiscal conservatism in local government and recognizing that NOT holding an election for Council representative would save Hillsborough money, Hillsborough Citizens Alliance strongly opposes any resolution that appoints a member (or members) to Council during an election year due to a lack of official candidates. There are three reasons for our position:

First, HCA wishes to express its deep disappointment in the failures of the current Council to deliver on the promises made during the 2020 campaign trail of actions on gas-powered leaf blowers, a reset on the cell tower issue, a viable evacuation plan in the event of fire or earthquake, and emergency communication system update.

Second, although Council has responded to some of the improvements HCA called for regarding public participation in the democratic process in Hillsborough, including the requirement of in-person conflict of interest or "COI" reporting (in reality, Council should not have been allowed to operate without such reporting!), the addition of a second public comment period, and citizen ability to participate via cell phone during monthly Council meetings so much more needs to be done. We hear time and time again from neighbors, complaining that their voices don't matter here, or worse, that they don't speak up in opposition out of fear of being targeted should they need permits, variances or other services granted by Council and/or staff. They say they see the same people running over and over again. And the "new" Council members are essentially pre-vetted and blessed by those already in power. The pejorative term "cabal" is a common refrain. Recall the 2020 election during which three candidates all ran as a bloc. The argument is that the candidates saved money, which is certainly a good idea. The downside is, at best, a perception – if not the very reality of – a groupthink that can steer any Council off a cliff.

Third, after what happened two years ago to one resident whose candidacy for Council was sabotaged by unnamed character assassins, we believe high-quality candidates are opting NOT to run for Hillsborough City Council for fear that they and their families will be subject to egregious attacks. We believe that a democratic election that allows for write-In candidates is not only a good remedy for such machinations but also a right and just path. There are at least two such candidates HCA has identified whom we believe would be excellent representatives yet who have expressed trepidation for reasons described above.

On behalf of over 750+ registered voters who have engaged with, volunteered for, and who share HCA's fervent beliefs in accountability, accessibility, transparency, candor, civic participation and respect for due process and collaborative in local government, we urge Hillsborough City Council to **VOTE NO ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARIE CHUANG AND LESLIE MARDEN RAGSDALE TO THE HILLSBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL** and, in fact, to make sure the 2022 election for two open Council seats be allowed to go forward as planned. Given the enormous decisions that are before the City Council

regarding the future of the town of Hillsborough we need the highest quality and the most dedicated candidates who are committed first and last to protecting the interests of residents today, tomorrow and for generations. Yes, it will cost money but that is the cost of the very democracy we hold dear. Moreover, fresh thinking and new voices is what is needed for any democratically elected body. Hillsborough City Council is no exception.

Thank you for your continued service to Hillsborough.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Friedberg
Co-Founder Hillsborough Citizens Alliance

From: [Kurt Meiswinkel](#)
To: [Al Royse](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Larry May](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Lisa Natusch](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: NO to Resolution Appointing New Council Members
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:54:59 AM

In case you had not heard, the City received only two applications for candidates to run for the open Council spots. Marie Chuang (who is running for her own open seat) and Leslie Ragsdale (who is running to fill the one Larry May's open seat). Because only two applicants filed, they are proposing that during a special meeting on August 25, they will pass a resolution appointing these two applicants.

While a strong proponent of fiscal conservatism in local government and recognizing that NOT holding an election for council representative would save Hillsborough money, Hillsborough Citizens Alliance strongly opposes any resolution that appoints a member (or members) to Council during an election year due to a lack of official candidates. There are three reasons for our position:

First, after what happened two years ago to Aaron Zornes whose candidacy was sabotaged by unnamed character assassins, we believe high-quality candidates are opting NOT to run in Hillsborough for fear that they and their families will be subject to further unwarranted and unjustified attacks. We believe that a democratic election that allows for write-In candidates to be elected is the right and just path. There are at least two such candidates we have identified.

Second, HCA wishes to express its deep disappointment in the failures of the current Council to deliver on the promises made during the campaign trail of actions on gas-powered leaf blowers, a reset on the cell tower issue, a viable evacuation plan in the event of fire or earthquake, and emergency communication system update.

Third, although Council has responded to some of the improvements HCA called for regarding public participation in the democratic process in Hillsborough (including the addition of a second public comment period and ability to participate via cell phone during monthly Council meetings) so much more needs to be done. We hear time and time again from neighbors, complaining that their voices don't matter here. They say they see the same people running over and over again. And the "new" ones are essentially pre-vetted and blessed. Think about the 2020 election during which three candidates all ran as a bloc. The argument is that they saved money which is certainly a good idea. The downside is the very groupthink that can steer any Council off a cliff.

On behalf of over 750+ registered voters who have engaged with, volunteered for, and who share HCA's fervent beliefs in accountability, accessibility, transparency, candor, civic participation and respect for due process and collaborative in local government, we urge Hillsborough City Council to make sure the 2022 election for two Council seats be allowed to go as planned. Yes, it will cost money but that is the cost of the very democracy we hold dear. Moreover, fresh thinking and new voices is what is needed for any democratically elected body. Hillsborough City Council is no exception.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Hillsborough, CA 94010

Kurt Meiswinkel

Principal | Owner

C: [REDACTED] | Q: 650.344.7200 x102



Visit our new Website www.kmisf.com *for news and updates*