

Ms. Rowe,

I'm writing in response to your Elections Challenge for the West Hills Neighborhood Council Elections on September 29, 2012.

You stated that your Challenge was based on "Concerns regarding Ballots," "Campaign Material Issues," "Electioneering by Candidates," and "Observer/Media Issues."

Your challenge regarding "Concerns regarding Ballots" is dismissed because you made your claim before the Canvass of Votes was complete and before the Canvass Audit had taken place. Your challenge to the ballot count lacks any substantiation, all of which is moot based on the Final Canvass of Votes which certainly contradicts your claim that there are 19 ballots missing.

Your challenge regarding "Campaign Material Issues" is dismissed for lack of evidence or even an explanation of your claim.

Your challenge of "Electioneering by Candidates" is rejected for lack of any actual claim on your part to any electioneering on the property. Your concerns are evident and you acknowledge that it was impossible to determine if any candidates were electioneering. But this hardly rises to the level of an actionable challenge and relies on requirements for chalk lines or rope lines that simply don't exist.

Your challenge regarding "Observer/Media Issues" seems to be focused on the participation of a non-candidate Boardmember and his wife in the canvass of votes. There is no prohibition barring a Board member from participating in the set-up or breakdown of the polling location and this includes the canvass of votes. You have failed to articulate any inappropriate behavior and instead simply express a desire to interrogate other members of the Canvas Team.

It is your obligation to support your challenge with a valid claim, one that is supported by evidence. It is not appropriate to simply express doubts and demand investigations based on the fact that you did not witness any challengeable activity but want to make sure that none took place.

Ultimately, the West Hills election took place, the ballots were counted, recounted, and audited. The provisional ballots were held and those that were qualified within the three days were added to the tally. At all times there was oversight and accountability and the results speak for themselves. The Final Official Canvass of Votes has been posted at EmpowerLA's West Hills Election page.

Thank you for your commitment to the integrity of the Neighborhood Council electoral process.