

ELECTION

The GICCA election nomination process in the Bylaws states it shall begin in September of each year with voting in November. The Board of Directors looked carefully at five options of how and when to hold the Annual Meeting. The pandemic has placed many challenges on election planning. Following a regularly scheduled August Meeting of the Executive Board, the following motion was emailed on August 13, 2020 to all members of the Board: **“The November 2020 election of Board Members be delayed for one year. Those currently on the Board will have their terms extended for one additional year.”** Six members voted in favor of the motion and one abstained, therefore, the motion passed. This decision followed the Ferry Committee lead to delay one year. The details were then posted on <https://myguemes.org/> website.

The Board’s primary concerns and decision-making process were:

- 1) **Compliance with Covid-19 regulations and restrictions:** Phase 2 restrictions include stay-at-home order (especially for high risk individuals, due to existing medical conditions and those over 60), plus gatherings of no more than 5.
- 2) The pandemic is new territory for all non-profit organizations. The **Board has been staying apprised** of updates from the CDC, Governor, and County. Direct communication with the office of Washington Secretary of State and Skagit County Health Department were a part of the decision-making process.
- 3) **Public safety:** We want everyone to feel safe about voting, including those in high risk categories. Many of the membership have expressed concern that they would be excluded from any election solution other than a delay.
- 4) Inclusiveness: There is **no all-inclusive list of eligible voters**. Membership includes all Guemes Island property owners and residents (including renters) and no list exists.
- 5) The Board members are volunteers and strive to accept their responsibilities with **honesty, integrity, and transparency**, and to maintain basic operations until the next election is held.
- 6) During Covid-19 restrictions, GICCA is doing **only essential business**. All GICCA rentals, activities and programs have been postponed. Only already approved projects are moving forward.
- 7) The Board has a new recommended focus of **volunteer recruitment** opportunities to increase GICCA involvement for more islanders. See meeting handout.
- 8) Following the recent resignation of a Board member, the **vacancy will be filled** according to GICCA Bylaws, Article V: *“In the event of any vacancy, the Board shall appoint a successor to fulfill the unexpired term.”* Those interested should refer to the GICCA website.
- 9) The Board is elected to do the business of the organization. **Meetings may be added, rescheduled, or postponed** as deemed necessary. Article VIII, Section 2: *“Additional meetings may be scheduled, and regular meetings may be postponed or cancelled by the Officers provided that the membership is notified one week in advance by posted notice.”*
- 10) May 2020 minutes available on website included the notice of Executive Board Meetings to be held during the June, July, August hiatus. **All meeting minutes are posted.**
- 11) As information was available to the community some misinformation was spread that generated statements of concern. **Efforts were made to direct people to the facts** at <https://myguemes.org/> and to listen to the concerns that were voiced. Other citizens came forward to voice support for the decision to postpone based on health risks. Comments from the membership are welcomed, although advisory.
- 12) The Covid-19 Phased reopening requirements for Skagit County will be monitored to determine when an election can be held. In 2021, the Board will review election official qualifications and operating procedures to try to **be prepared for possible restrictions** should modifications be required.
- 13) Additional effort went into a secondary round to review the options and a reaffirmation that the earlier vote was correct. **No reconsideration of the vote from August is recommended.**