



Protect our local elections — Say NO to the replacement bylaws

If you're a staff member or subscriber at Pacifica radio station KPFA, you're qualified to vote in an election about whether or not to replace the Pacifica Foundation's Bylaws. To protect grassroots democracy at KPFA and Pacifica, we urge you to **vote NO!**

REQUEST BALLOT

[Ballots were distributed on February 18. If you didn't receive a ballot, request one at: elections.pacifica.org Voting continues through March 18, so there is ample time remaining to obtain a ballot. Don't miss out on this crucial election!]

Soon after the ballots went out, supporters of the plan sent a vote - yes email. Some of their observations are accurate: Pacifica is indeed facing serious financial difficulties, and there's been too much turnover in the Pacifica executive positions.

But their dubious “solution” would eliminate our democratically-elected Local Station Boards (LSBs), and end ALL staff participation in governance.

Although called an “amendment,” their plan is in fact a complete replacement of the existing Bylaws. If the plan passes, there will be no more elected Local Station Boards (LSBs). That means no more local oversight of station management, and no setting where community members can share their ideas about the stations and programs.

There'll only be a national board— the equivalent of the federal government attempting to oversee city and county issues.

That new national board will have just one member elected from each station (five in total), an abandonment of the existing proportional-representation system that ensures diverse viewpoints can be heard. ***And the five members elected from the radio station communities could be outvoted by six unelected “at- large” members.***

The authors of the replacement-by-laws plan have already hand- picked six “transition” directors to initially fill the at-large seats. Passing the replacement bylaws would automatically appoint all six.

These unelected directors would hold unprecedented power: they'd be the majority of the new board, and would even have the authority to choose their own successors! But what are their plans for Pacifica? Without having to run as candidates, they haven't had to explain their positions on the issues facing the network.

Plus, most of them do not have a background in radio, or media of any kind. And, with the election barely underway, three of the six have already changed their minds and will not be available to fill those seats (one of the designated “alternates” has also opted-out). Clearly the authors of the plan weren't very careful about who they recruited, or didn't fully explain their plan. This alone should be reason enough to vote no.

Radio-station staff members would fare even worse than subscribers under the replacement-bylaws plan: **Staff would have no representation in governance at all.** By comparison, the existing Bylaws allocate board seats 75% to subscribers and 25% to staff. With staff representation eliminated, the board will lose the knowledge of those who create our programs.

Also missing from the new National Board would be representation for Pacifica's Affiliate Department, which distributes Pacifica programming to over 200 community stations across the country, and brings in revenue for Pacifica.

The plan poses additional problems that should concern Pacifica supporters. See www.pacificafightback.org and pacificainexile.org/archives/2967 for further information.

If the replacement-bylaws do pass, what will subscribers and staff receive in exchange for giving up most of their voting rights?

In their email, the supporters of the plan offer only the conjecture that Pacifica's lenders will find the replacement national board “more credible.”

But replacing one governance system and board with another does not create funds.

Rescue Pacifica

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