

**Subject:** Ensuring Majority Representation by the Historic Resources Board Members present

Dear Historic Resources board and staff,

I appreciate the benchmarking efforts to evaluate processes and programs from other jurisdictions done as you reconsider the historic preservation program in the city of San Diego. However, I noticed that the review did not address how other cities handle voting procedures for historic designations by the Historic Resources Board.

Recently, a historic designation was lost for a bungalow court despite a majority of attending board members voting in favor (5 members), simply because 2 members voted against it. This outcome, where a minority of board members determines the result, is fundamentally anti-democratic—especially given that the board consists of volunteers, many of whom are serving beyond their terms.

Additionally, there is no proxy process for absent board members, meaning decisions can be made without full representation. As changes to the program are being considered, I urge the city to update the voting requirements to ensure that:

1. A designation decision is based on the majority of members present when there is a quorum.
2. A proxy process could also be established for members unable to attend.

These changes will help guarantee that the majority viewpoint is properly reflected for historic designation decisions. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Janet O'Dea