

Governing by Representation

Community associations are a representative form of government founded on the principle of elected individuals representing the people. Much of our country is based on the principles of representative democracy. It starts with organizations like community associations and progresses through our schools boards, city governments, county governments, state governments—all the way to the federal government. We vote for a person, or persons, who will act on our behalf.

Some might advocate that a board should not take action without a vote of the members to find out what the people want. That would be counter-productive. If association members were to vote on every issue before a decision was made, there would be no need for a board, but simply someone to send out ballots and tally results. However, boards find out what their constituents want in other ways. Many make time to hear from residents at each board meeting. But, it's up to you to attend meetings, voice your opinions and participate in the exchange of ideas with the board. We also encourage your involvement and participation. Perhaps you would consider joining a committee. We want your input, ideas, thoughts and opinions.

When the season for community association annual meetings and annual board elections approaches, consider carefully which candidates you select—including yourself. Consider running for the board to help shape the future of your community.

Source: Community Associations Institute.

