

Subject: Rossmoor Mutual Election Media Access

Purpose: Establish a Policy Governing Use of GRF Media for Coverage of Elections and Voting in Rossmoor Mutuals

This policy shall apply to any Rossmoor Mutual Corporation elections or matters unrelated to GRF that may be the subject of a vote of Mutual Members (“Elections”).

Rossmoor Mutuals are independently regulated Associations as defined in the Davis Stirling Act, and separate legal entities which have full authority/control/autonomy to determine their own standards for publication/broadcast of materials relating to Elections, including complete blackouts thereof. Each of the various Mutuals in Rossmoor has or may have distinct policies and practices regarding its own Elections. It shall be GRF’s policy to respect the autonomy of each Mutual and its right to self-regulate, in order to comply with applicable law.

GRF will not interfere with determinations by any Mutual regarding Election media access. To the extent requested by any Mutual and subject to assurances by such Mutual that its policies and practices comply with applicable law, which GRF may reasonably rely on, GRF may provide access to GRF publications/media, including the Rossmoor News and/or Rossmoor TV as reasonably requested by the Mutual. GRF reserves the right to charge and collect the actual costs of such access where such costs are deemed to be material by the GRF Board. Submissions by the Mutual for publication/broadcast may be subject to a separate written agreement, including indemnification of GRF that the Mutual has confirmed and is responsible for compliance with applicable law.

GRF’s policy regarding any/all coverage of Mutual Elections by the Rossmoor News and/or Rossmoor TV shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. Except as provided in Section 2 below, GRF will not publish or broadcast campaign materials concerning Mutual Elections. Therefore, advertisements, letters and editorials, supporting, opposing or otherwise pertaining to Mutual Elections shall not be published in the Rossmoor News or broadcast on Rossmoor TV, if in the discretion of the designated senior manager, such materials are likely or intended, to influence an Election or are/may be inconsistent with applicable law, without indemnification by the Mutual.

2. Notwithstanding Section 1 above, images or other materials relating to a Candidate or voting matter in a Rossmoor Mutual Election may be published/broadcast under the following exceptions:
  - A. Reporting by Rossmoor News staff, as third-party journalists, on news, including but not limited to, notices of open board seats, when an election/vote will take place, Issues/Candidates on a ballot and election/voting results, excluding advocacy or coverage “on behalf of” any Mutual candidate or Mutual issue; or
  - B. Pre-printed inserts, supplied to the Rossmoor News by the Mutual, that such Mutual certifies to GRF to comply with Civil Code Sections 5100 through 5130, and which meet the News’ deadline for distribution and specifications for folding, and are subject to the News’ insert advertising rate, paid in advance. Each Mutual will be responsible for compliance with applicable law, including the content and publication of its insert(s), including letters submitted by residents of the Mutual or other third parties; or
  - C. Materials concerning or originated by a Mutual Candidate that arise in the ordinary course of business and have been redacted to exclude any information concerning an Election.
3. Notwithstanding any of the above provisions, submissions or requests by any Mutual Corporation to impose standards/limitations on publications/broadcasts concerning its own Elections that are more restrictive than the requirements of Civil Code Sections 5100 through 5130, up to and including a complete prohibition of publications/broadcasts, will be respected by GRF.
4. All submissions for publication of Election materials must be accompanied by a request in writing from an officer of the Mutual corporation to the designated Director of the Communications Department prior to each Election, certifying compliance with applicable law using the form attached hereto. Such requests will not become effective until received and acknowledged by GRF.

**GRF POLICY 604.1 MUTUAL SUBMISSION COVERSHEET/AGREEMENT**

**(ALL ELECTION MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION BY GRF MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THIS FORM)**

The attached submission contains Mutual material for publication in the Rossmoor News. By submitting this material for publication by Golden Rain Foundation of Walnut Creek (GRF), the Submitter, through its signature below by an authorized Board member or officer, represents and warrants to GRF that the content is consistent with the Policies of the undersigned Mutual, and that it meets the requirements of all applicable laws/regulations for publication, including the California Civil Code. The Submitter further represents and warrants that it hereby agrees to indemnify, defend and hold GRF harmless for the publication of the content of this submission.

Submitter further understands and agrees that GRF will not edit the content submitted, and will identify the content as having been submitted by the Mutual for publication, pursuant to Mutual policies, and subject to the Mutual's determination that the submission conforms to applicable law, and any/all comments regarding such submission should be directed to the Mutual, not GRF.

All submissions pursuant to GRF Policy 604.1 must comply with these requirements, and the applicable Policy language, as well as applicable deadlines for publication.

**By signing below, Submitter agrees to comply with the terms of this document, and GRF Policy 604.1 as currently written and hereby indemnifies and holds GRF harmless for the content submitted for publication:**

Submitter (Mutual): \_\_\_\_\_

Party signing on behalf of Mutual (printed name): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Authority: Policy

1/28/21