

# PALOS VERDES PENINSULA NEWS

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## PALOS VERDES ESTATES

# Homeowners board election hits quorum snag (again)

By David Rosenfeld  
Staff writer

The Palos Verdes Homes Association is once again fighting over election results to fill its board of directors, two years after a Superior Court Judge ordered it to tally ballots even though the group considered the election invalid.

At issue is the inability of the association—which represents Palos Verdes Estates homeowners—to reach a quorum. Normally, 50% of property owners must vote for the election to be valid. But this year's mail-in election, announced Jan. 14, required 35%. Yet, the group missed that target, too, though barely.

When an election doesn't reach a quorum, it gets invalidated and current board members either continue serving or appoint new members. But the association, which regulates views and architectural designs in this upscale community, has reached a

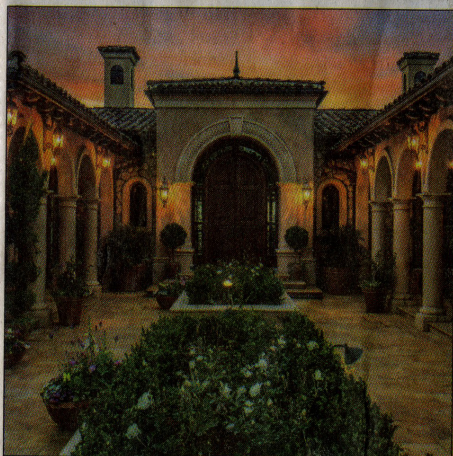
quorum three times in 25 years—the last time was in 2009—sparking a dispute that eventually went to Superior Court in 2018, during which a judge used an informal tally to help decide how to rule.

This year, 1,864 valid ballots were counted, or 34.4% of properties; 221 ballots, however, were invalidated because they were unsigned—an unusually high number, according to those familiar with the association's elections.

At the association's meeting Tuesday night, Feb. 25, about two dozen residents were vocal, and many were frustrated, about wanting the board to count all the ballots, including the invalidated ones. They outnumbered the few who said they believed the board should follow its rules and declare the election invalid.

Two of the five board members resigned at the Jan. 28 meeting, leaving

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The entrance to a home in Palos Verdes Estates. The Palos Verdes Homes Association regulates views and architectural designs, yet the organization has ongoing difficulty conducting a valid election for board members.