

CHAPTER 2
ELECTIONS

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The election of members to vacant seats on the Village Council shall take place at the Section's May meeting.

Amended September 10, 2013

Sec. 2-110 Placement of names in nomination for office by:

- (a) Candidates may have their names placed on the ballot by:
 - (1) Declaring their intention to seek office; or
 - (2) Being nominated by an eligible Section voter
- (b) In either case, the declaration or nomination must be in writing and submitted to the Section Manager by the first (1st) day of March. The Section Manager shall immediately notify any nominee of his/her nomination.

Sec. 2-120 Withdrawal of nomination.

Any person nominated may withdraw from nomination by written notice to the Section Manager by the tenth (10th) day of March.

Sec. 2-130 Voluntary statement by nominees; notice to voters of annual meeting and candidates.

(a) Each candidate may submit a statement of no more than 200 words as to qualifications and reasons for candidacy. Submission of this statement is voluntary and if submitted, must be received by the section manager on or before March 10th.

(b) At least two (2) weeks prior to the election, the village Council shall mail to the voters, a notice of the Annual Meeting and a list of the candidates who have been nominated or who have declared their candidacy. Included in this mailing will be the statements submitted by the candidates as to qualifications and reasons for seeking office. Such statements and lists of candidates shall be included in alphabetical order of the candidate's surname.

Sec. 2-140 Persons eligible to vote.

Each person who on the day of the annual meeting is or will be eighteen (18) years of age or older and is a resident of the Section for not less than six (6) months, and is a registered voter in the State of Maryland, shall be eligible to vote.

Sec. 2-150 Polling place and hours; write-in or proxy votes.

Polling shall take place at the site of the Annual Meeting between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Only official ballots secured from the election tellers and official absentee ballots will be counted. No write-in votes will be counted and this shall be so stated on each ballot. No proxy voting is permitted.

Amended September 10, 2013

Sec. 2-160 Form Ballots.

Each ballot shall contain the names of all qualified candidates listed alphabetically by surname and printed so as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross (X) mark in a square to the right of the name of each candidate, his/her choice of candidates. At the top of each ballot, in large bold type shall be printed the words "Official Ballot for Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase, Maryland." Each ballot shall be folded. The ballot shall state the number of votes the voter may cast. This number shall be the equivalent of the number of seats subject to election on the Council.

Sec. 2-170 Ballot Box.

A suitable ballot box shall be provided by the Village Council enclosed on all sides, having a slot in the top just large enough to accommodate a ballot without additional folding. The box shall be secured and shall not be opened for any reason whatsoever until the polls are closed.

Sec. 2-180 Electioneering in poll room.

No person shall be permitted to canvass or electioneer in the poll room.

Sec. 2-190 Spoiled ballots; replacement ballots.

Any voter who shall by accident or mistake spoil his/her ballot, on returning said ballot to the official from whom he/she received it, shall receive another in its stead, but no voter shall receive more than three ballots for this reason.

Sec. 2-200 Counting ballots.

The actual count of the ballots shall be made immediately after the polls have been closed.

Sec. 2-210 Candidate's right to examine ballots and observe ballot counting.

Any candidate whose name appears on the ballot or any duly authorized representative of any candidate shall have the right to examine any ballot and to watch the counting of the ballots but in no instance shall a watcher handle any ballot.

Sec. 2-220 Determination of winning candidates.

The candidate with the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the first vacant seat on the council, the candidate with the second greatest votes shall be elected to the second vacant seat and so on until all vacancies on the council are filled.

Sec. 2-230 Tie Votes.

If any of the persons voted for shall have an equal number of votes so as to constitute a tie for the vacant seat, and those so tied are unable to agree immediately, by lot or otherwise, as to the means to breaking the tie, the Election Board shall immediately make preparations for another election in which the candidates so tied will be the only candidates. Such election shall be conducted by giving residents an opportunity to vote at a designated time and place to be selected by the Election Board. A run-off election is unnecessary if the two tied candidates have sufficient votes to place them on the Council ahead of any other candidate.

Amended March 13, 2001.

Sec. 2-240 Absentee Ballots

(a) Qualified voters who are unable to vote in person on the day of election at the polling place shall be permitted, upon application and approval by the Village Council, to vote by absentee ballot.

(b) Application for absentee ballot shall be submitted to the Section Manager signed by the voter and witness in writing.

(c) Upon receipt of an application for absentee ballot and approval by the Village Council, an absentee ballot and an official envelope shall be mailed or handed to the applicant or his/her representative. A voter having been authorized to vote by absentee ballot shall not be permitted to vote in person. Each absentee ballot, after being marked by the voter, shall be placed in the official envelope and sealed. The official envelope shall then be sent or delivered to the Section Manager in another envelope identifying the absentee voter by name and address and marked "ballot" in the lower left hand corner. The envelope must be received by the Section Manager prior to the closing of the polls in order for the ballot to be counted. The Section Manager shall remove the official envelope from the outer envelope and deposit the official envelope unopened in the ballot box. Each outer envelope shall be retained by the Section Manager until all ballots have been counted and verified. Thereafter, they shall be destroyed.

Sec. 2-250 Council actions and election judges.

All actions required by these rules to be taken by the Village Council shall be taken by those members thereof who are not candidates for election, acting by a majority vote of such members and all disputes arising under these rules or relating to the election shall be resolved by the majority vote of such members. In those years in which there is an even number of members of the council who are not candidates for election, the council will, at the time the period for nomination is closed, appoint a resident of the Section to act as an election judge to consider and decide election issues in which there is a tie vote of these voting members of the Village Council. Adopted Jan. 10, 1984.