

## **Appendix 17 Election Survey Comments**

### **KPFA Survey**

#### *Text Comments for Reasons for NOT having voted*

I didn't realize mail-in ballots had to be mailed early enough to be in Berkeley by the last day. You were still having the candidates speaking before then

I felt I did not know enough (myself) about the candidates to give an informed vote.

'll do better next time.

It seems that there are \inside\' politics always going on at Pacifica and this concerns me as Pacifica is such a wonderful gift to democracy and I don't ever want Pacifica's independence harmed.

I did not feel that I was informed about the candidates and their stances. I listen to KPFA, but not all the time and I did not know how to get information about each candidate if I did not hear it when listening to the radio

I did not feel I had a good enough grasp of the issues or enough info on the slates.

Didn't get a ballot.

I do not know the candidates and cannot understand the issues even though I listened to several candidate forum programs.

I lost the ballot and didn't have enough time to request a new one (in the process of moving to a new house).

I strongly recommend and request that election be perform online. It can be done much cheaper, safer and better for the environment.

Why do you still using paper for ballots?"

Familiarizing myself with the candidates and their issues is an overwhelming task I have no patience or time to undertake.

Unfortunately, I was preparing for a 6 month trip (which I'm on right now) and was so swamped with finishing projects and preparations that I couldn't find/make the time to read the bios on the candidates and make my decision. This was the first time that I consciously said I didn't have time/energy to do the research--it is unfortunately a daunting process to prepare for the elections. In the past, it was also difficult to make decisions on so many people where not much is really made public about each

candidate. I don't feel like I am really able to make an informed decision on candidates. Perhaps debates? More time on-air for candidates to talk about their viewpoints?

It is difficult to tell the candidates apart from their on-air interviews and statements. Almost all want to broaden the listener base, increase the listener base and virtually no one has concrete ideas on how to do any of that. And there is so much infighting among the various groups that it takes a lot of work for a listener who is not involved to figure out what is going on. And I was about to leave on a three-week vacation when the ballot arrived, so I just gave up and recycled it.

I remember thinking when I first heard the proposal for an elected board that it reminded me of ballots for boards of nonprofits of which I am a member, full of people I've never heard of with mom-and-apple-pie statements about their candidacy. And I guess that disgust with the California candidates for state and national office also fed into it."

#### WHY I DIDN'T VOTE: ON-AIR DIDN'T WORK FOR ME AS A MEDIUM

I really try to be informed. I am one of those voters who carefully collects, then reads, most of the election lit I get in the mail for gov't elections, including much of the half-inch pamphlets. I do my election homework" like an 'A' student. It was not clear to me what the candidates truly represented. KPFA is an incredibly important asset to the radical and social movements in the bay area. It could also be a tasty morsel for either a political sect to take over or turned into monetary capital by some other kind of takeover.

I am generally happy with the programming as it exists at the moment - especially democracy now, but also the morning show, against the grain, letters to washington, flash points, voices of the middle east... I want to hear a spectrum of viewpoints from the left.

I never received a ballot.

I'm too busy. I don't know the people. I don't want to be involved at this level. I appreciate the opportunity to participate, but I'm not informed enough to help.

unfortunately i ran out of time. i was working on a large project and neglected to get it filled out in time.

Without spending more time than I have available, I found it impossible to figure out the differences among the candidates. I read the booklet and learned only that there were slates opposed to each other, but couldn't understand why. I listened to 1.5 of the interview/debates on the air, same thing: couldn't hear enough in between the lines to figure out what were the differences were really about. It was incredibly discouraging and disheartening.

Too time-consuming a task.

"I think WAY too much time & money was spent on this internal \"democratic\" process. It made me sick to hear all the in-fighting -- for what? Power? Control? There won't be a Pacifica if supporters can't work out their differences and learn to coexist. Require all these well-meaning candidates to put in a minimum number of hours before they can run for office. Talk is cheap. I want to see candidates who know and care about KPFA"

There were too many candidates, and their platforms were too way too time consuming to read. After awhile all candidates began to look the same. I knew this wasn't true, so rather than make a mistake, I chose not to vote at all.

I thought the ballot could be postmarked on Sept 30 so I waited until that day. When I looked at the deadline, it said it had to be received by Sept 30. Although I had already marked my ballot, it was too late at night for me to drive across the Bay Bridge.

I know longer live in the Bay Area and cannot receive the KPFA signal in the mountains of Ukiah where I live. My participation in the recent KPFA election was based on my outrage that a group of listeners who operated under the name, Concerned Listeners, a number of whom had collaborated with the Pat Scott regime of the 1990s, which almost destroyed Pacifica, had taken the name of an organization, Save KPFA, of which I had been a co-founder in 1993, in order to confuse the listener members who may have had good memories of those like myself who devoted a good piece of our lives in those days to saving KPFA and Pacifica while these frauds did nothing. I am pleased to learn that the National Board has declared this most recent election invalid.

"THE CANDIDATES SEEMED VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. MOST APPEARED TO BE ENGAGED IN A VERY CONTENTIOUS STRUGGLE THAT I COULD NOT BEGIN TO SEE INTO. CANDIDATES AND THEIR ADVOCATES OFTEN USED DENSE AND INSIDER-ONLY LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THIS STRUGGLE, WHICH DID NOT ALLOW ME AS A LISTENER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE UNDERLYING ISSUES REALLY WERE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY WOULD REFER TO THEIR SLATE AND THEIR 'BLOCK' AS IF IT WERE A POLITICAL PARTY. AND THEY DID SO ASSUMING THAT WE LISTENERS ALL KNEW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT, EVEN USING ACRONYMS AND REFERRING TO LOTS OF OLD EVENTS. THE ELECTION PROCESS ITSELF WAS TRANSPARENT AND DID NOT CONFUSE ME. THE 'ISSUES' AND THE CANDIDATES WHO PRESENTED THEM HOWEVER, DID SO VERY MUCH. IN THE END, I ALMOST JUST VOTED FOR THE 'SLATE' THAT SOME TRUSTED FRIENDS OF MINE ADVOCATED FOR, BUT I DECIDED NOT TO BECAUSE I DID NOT TRULY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE, ROOTS, AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE POWER STRUGGLE THAT WAS TAKING PLACE. AND THAT REALLY SUCKED!! THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN INSIDER THING WHERE THE SAME OLD FOLKS POINT FINGERS AT EACH OTHER AND GET LOUDER AND LOUDER. THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLE AND EXPLAINED IT AS THOUGH THERE WERE FOLKS LISTENING WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IMMersed IN STATION AND NETWORK POLITICS FOR 35 YEARS. TOO BAD."

Don't know about the election or what is at stake. Therefore, I don't care.

"If we received anything besides the most minimal information (I believe we had notification that there was an election and there might have been names without further description but that's all!) on candidates for the most recent round of voting, we missed it!

We've previously voted when I happened to both hear radio statements AND found a piece of mail around the same time with printed profiles/statements. This time around I was afraid of how much of our currently very limited family time would be stolen from us if I got caught up in trying to find out more through online searches. That's not due to apathy, we're just really really busy and stressed this semester; and an online task can be clear cut or it can be a nightmarish wild goose hunt, and I didn't find a moment I felt good about starting the journey.

It would be better for us if statements from candidates were emailed...and the responsibilities of each position, and descriptions of current issues facing the stations as well. I rarely miss an email but snail mail slips through due to business or busy kids' hands, and as it falls on me to keep Eric up to date on these things, my vote now is on email notices. (Notice I'm responding to this emailed survey on the same day we received it).

If those were sent via email, I dropped the ball somehow, but really, that rarely happens, so if you could let the right person know that email is an effective method of communicating with listeners, that'd be great."

"Unfortunately the balloting and candidate presentations were concurrent with a major family health issue. I very much wanted and intended to vote, but the deadline passed before I got back to it.

To the extent I was able to listen to the candidate forums (one round) I was frustrated by the lack of specificity. Maybe next time, eh?"

"I waited to receive the recommended rankings from the slate whose views I most closely agree with: independents for community radio. When it came time to vote I couldn't find my ballot. I sent an email to a friend, who pointed me to the local election supervisor. By that time it was near to the last day and I did not get a reply before the balloting was closed.

I care very much about the election and I wanted to be as effective with my votes as possible, which requires coordinated action with other voters. The ballot was far too flimsy ( I sensed to keep costs down,) but it too easily blended in to the constant stream of paper that runs through my office. The ballot should be distinctive!"

"i waited for the candidate booklet which did not arrive until after the election closed. I use print to select."

I enjoy and appreciate the programming. I am busy living my life and spend most of my time working hard. So I do not want to spend time trying to figure out who should be on the advisory board. I send in my contributions several times a year and do not want to be bothered with running a radio show.

"It wasn't until the day of the election, when I heard on the \Morning Show\"

Too much squabbling and nasty partisanship by the slates.

"The on air position-debates were so full of ugly divisiveness that I just decided maybe this is the end of the station, especially with candidates considering things like \purgues.

My wife passed away recently and I was unable to take the time to become an informed voter.

I could not choose, (disparate info., unclear about the underlying issues-- tho I tried to understand), then I lost track of time and could not find my ballot..... I found it all very confusing.

Although I called and tried on your website to get a ballot, I never got one.

I thought there was a way to vote online and I waited too long to vote by mail.

The ballot was mailed to us way before we could decide who to vote for, and by the time we were ready, we had lost the ballot.

I was away for most of the voting period and when I returned I found that my membership had lapsed. But I did follow the process and it felt very bitter. A number of my friends from Berkeley days were following it from the UK and kept writing to me to ask my views on what was happening. And a number of people on the Save KPFA slate were friends from long ago.

I had the ballot on my desk for several weeks, and received some election campaign mailers, but ultimately decided that I didn't know enough to vote. There seems to be a lot of rancor and divisions, and I was truly lost as to who to vote for that would most agree with me. Candidate statements are generally self-serving and not helpful. If the Daily Planet weighted in with clarifications, then I missed it. So I had no guidance. I'm really out of touch with this issue. Others more up on this should be the voters. I live in Bodega Bay and enjoy KPFA from time to time

"I am tired of the fighting and the need to form opposing slates, rather than to solicit Board Members who will focus on raising money for KPFA and governance issues.

I was very disappointed a couple of years ago when I went to the LAB meeting in San Jose, CA. The behavior of Brian Edwards-Tiegert and others made me not believe in how the board is structured. He used Robert's Rules to control the meeting & to end the

meeting early. It was a disgusting use of power, rather than caring about KPFA and the people who came to the meeting from San Jose.

We were out of the country, without email service, from 09-10 to 10-01; we had planned to be back on 09-30 but were delayed by a canceled flight and got back late on 10-01, too late to vote as ballots were due 09-30. I had also hoped I could vote before leaving 09-10, but voting had not yet begun.

I have not been tuned in to the election process - it does not seem to have any direct impact on my listening to KPFA

"My computer was down for several weeks and I just got behind on things.

I was also out of town for several weeks in September."

Being overwhelmed by personal life, chose not to vote because I didn't have time to educate myself re voting.

I could not figure out how the candidates DIFFERED. It is very time consuming to go through all the candidate statements, and, after reading a few, I could not see any way to distinguish them from one another. They all said pretty much the same things. What did they DISAGREE about? I could not find any basis on which to make a choice. I think this election process is a big waste of valuable station resources, and clearly most listeners feel the same, as only, is it 10% ? of listeners vote? I grew up on KPFA and would hate to see it go, but the level of factionalism and insider fighting you always have going on seems to insure that it will eventually bring the station down. These are tough days for independent radio, and we need unity and co-operation more than all this divisiveness. Don't pick on Morning show, Ag the Grain and Letters to Washington. They, along with Behind the News, are the reasons I still subscribe! I was overwhelmed by the number of candidates and didn't spend the time to dig through it all. At the last minute I tried to vote online, but that option wasn't available. I received a candidate booklet from KPFA, but it arrived over a week after the election. I received the information, however, I never got around to voting.

"1) I did not feel I could make an informed choice. Even w/ all the mailings and on-air talk, it all sounds like soundbites and slogans ... and the 'slates' add confusion and a sense of battle in this.

2) I cannot believe the animosity btw groups and individuals - it makes one want to stay as far away as possible from it all."

I was unable to distinguish between candidates

I did not feel that I was informed enough about the issues. I heard several interviews with prospective candidates, but did not feel that I heard enough to choose between the various positions.

I was particularly sorry to hear that funding for the Morning Show and other shows that I enjoy were being cut back, and I was not sure which candidates would be most supportive of maintaining support.

I realize I should have taken more time to inform myself, but it is hard to find that extra time.

I live in Oregon and only listen online. I don't know anything about the candidates or issues.

I don't see much wrong with KPFA's policies. Maybe less hip hop music, because internationally intellectuals prefer to listen and understand clear English instead pretending to understand it. I love KPFA and support it with all my heart. Each and all of you dedicated most useful human beings. I would hope that management can be creative in fund raising, which I see as the most important issue.

I thought you hadn't mailed me a ballot. Turns out my wife sorted the mail and stuck it on my side buried under other mail and the deadline passed. Sorry.

There are way to many candidates on the ballot for someone with a busy life to become familiar with and feel confident about voting for.

I know it is no excuse, but my reason is painfully simple: I have been traveling, have had work problems, family health issues, and did not get around to it before the date passed. I will try to do better next year.

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From the little I looked at the incite-to-vote email, it didn't seem possible to vote at distance. Sorry if I missed that point ...

I am over burdened with administrative work and do not respond well to mailings. I tend to do most of my work online. I am sorry I did not take the time to vote.

I lost the ballot. I planned to vote but I couldn't find it and it was too much of a hassle to try to get another.

"Primarily, limited time on my part and an unclear set of issues.

the mass of candidates all talked about \"the crisis\" which was never defined"  
I needed time to research the different candidates. I thought that the deadline for the election was a postmark deadline, and as a result ran out of time to vote.

I did not follow the candidates or their positions to make an informed decision. I am happy to support KPFA with donations but to make an informed decision about candidates would require more time and effort I had in the past few months.

Unfortunately I asked several X for a ballot and did not receive one by mail. While volunteering during the Fall funddrive I was sent upstairs (second floor) to pick up one at KPFA. No one was present in the office I was redirected to. No ballots were available either.

Unfortunately, I had misplaced that actual election ballot a few days before the deadline. :(

I postponed the task and stupidly missed the deadline!

### **KPFK Survey**

I got my ballot before all the urgent announcements were made--and I threw it away before I knew how urgent it was

I got the ballot and REALLY wanted to vote. But I could not make an informed decision (but sort of regret that I did not just vote, anyway...)

What would help: Make sure the candidates repeat their name AT THE END OF THEIR MESSAGE on the radio one more time. Send out short written statements by candidates along with the ballot. Thanks for all you do!!"

I had an extremely busy Fall and did not take the time to study the candidates and send in my ballot it was not convenient, Why can there not be an electronic voting, such as this website where I can just click a circle instead of filling out a paper form and mailing it. We could save some trees as well.

I did not get a ballot. I filled out the online request for another ballot. None came. The web site said the online requests were being filled and we should wait. No ballot came. I

tried repeatedly to call the phone number 261-7488 and got no answer and no machine. I really did want to vote this year.

My only ballot arrived at my home on Oct 14th, after the due date.

I lost my ballot, and didn't realize it was too late. I thought I could vote online.

### **KPFT Survey**

Came down to the last minute and sadly wasn't able to submit my form in time. I was out of town for two months; thus didn't receive the ballot in a timely manner.

Don't know enough about the candidates and how KPFT is run

While I found the STV process fairly confusing, I didn't vote in the beginning, even though I already knew a couple of candidates I wanted to vote for, because I was hoping to discover more about others and to distinguish them from yet others. It ended up being too confusing to try to figure out who was who after hearing XXX number of candidates over and over again, not knowing how to distinguish them, and by then I'd lost the friggin paper ballot when I wanted to vote for just my original two. Please lets hear them over the air, and then have a summary on-line, and then vote on-line. Thank you.

I have no excuse or reason. Believe in the process. Need to find a way to allow electronic voting via web if one chooses. Have someone design such a system for next election and 4 months before next elections, give all members a chance to test and be assured of its security.

It's a little silly in my opinion, but whatever.

### **WBAI Survey**

I delayed until too late, thinking we could vote online....

### **WPFW Survey**

I was on travel when the ballot arrived. Upon my return I missed placed the ballot when sorting through all of the mail and did not request a replacement since it was close to the balloting deadline.

ballot got lost in a giant stack of mail including charities, ads, etc and then was forgotten until the urgent reminder and extension.

i dont vote because i feel this is the only station for black people and even though i have opinions of how i would like it to be, it is not my place to alter it for the people for whom

it is founded.i would add more progressive talk . i liked the re-air of democracy now,loved ambrose and jared,corporate crime reporter,the tuesday environment show,terry both shows and his co-hosts(both shows),gary null(most of the time) on the margin . i know there are different constituencies who advocate more jazz,more local politics ,more afrocentric programming and it is difficult to please everyone and my vote would actually be selfish

the ballot was too complicated. Started to vote several times but didn't have the time or the will to try to rank.

Was not aware of the deadline; missed the mailing. I did read the candidates' statements sent to me by mail but it was too late.