

# Memo

**To:** Taco Pope, AICP, County Manager  
**From:** Andy Easton, Andy Easton & Associates  
**Date:** June 29, 2021  
**Re:** American Beach Water/Sewer District Straw Ballot Count

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The American Beach Water and Sewer District, in conjunction with the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, conducted a mail-in straw ballot of the district's property owners to determine the level of support for an annual non-ad valorem assessment that would fund water and wastewater facilities to serve the district.

To be counted, properly completed ballots needed to be returned to the County by June 15, 2021, or if returned by mail, post marked by June 15, 2021.

The ballots were counted on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 by staff from Andy Easton & Associates, a community development consultant that was not otherwise involved in the ballot initiative. The ballot count showed that 86% of the 172 valid votes that were cast supported the annual assessment. Additional details about the ballot count are provided below:

- 180 was the total number of ballots that were cast (valid + invalid ballots).
- 172 was the total number of valid ballots.
- 148 was the number of valid ballots that voted YES for the proposed annual assessment.
- 24 was the number of valid ballots that voted NO for the proposed annual assessment.
- 8 ballots were found to be invalid and rejected because they were left blank or otherwise not properly filled out, including one property owner that returned the County's letter of introduction that was attached to the ballot, but not the ballot itself.
- 24 ballots were signed by someone other than the property owner but were accompanied by the proper attestation that the person casting the ballot had been duly authorized by the property owner. These ballots were considered valid because the ballot language allowed either the property owner, or someone authorized by the property owner to sign the ballot. **It should be noted that if these ballots were not included in the vote tally, there would be no material change to the outcome of the election. The percent that voted**

**YES (in favor of the assessment) would change from 86.04% to 83.78% (148 YES votes/172 total votes =86.04%) vs (124 YES votes/148 total votes=83.78%).**

- 5 ballots were returned with affidavits to document that the person signing the ballot were authorized to do so.
- There was one instance where two ballots were received for the same property. One voted No and the other Yes to the proposed annual assessment. Since two votes were cast for the same property, it was considered one invalid (spoiled) ballot.
- The following ballots were signed by someone other than the person shown as the property owner, as per the Property Appraiser's website. All were considered valid ballots because they included the proper attestation of authority.

Ballot Sequence Number	Last 4 Digits of the Parcel Number	Notes
AB-012	0070	These ballots were not signed by owner of record and did not include documentation to show that the signer was authorized to do so, but the ballots were nevertheless considered valid, because there was no requirement in the ballot instructions for documentation to show that the non-property owner was authorized to sign the ballot.
AB-013	0080	
AB-014	0060	
AB-034	0500	
AB-100	0150	
AB-150	0120	
AB-165	0160	
AB-177	0090	
AB-193	0010	
AB-194	0020	
AB-195	0050	
AB-196	0270	
AB-197	0290	
AB-198	0300	
AB-199	0310	
AB-222	0380	
AB-225	0130	
AB-245	0070	
AB-249	0600	
AB-251	0010	
AB-252	0030	
AB-260	0200	

- The following ballot was photocopied and both copies were filled out by the property owners. Since only one ballot is allowed per property, this situation was considered an invalid (spoiled) ballot.

Sequence Number	Last 4 Digits of Parcel	Notes
AB-046	0790	Voted YES, but signed by the correct property owner
AB-046	0790	Voted NO, but signed by the correct property owner