

MEDIA RELEASE

June 29, 2021

American Beach Water/Sewer District Straw Ballot Count

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 affected property owners to determine the level of support for an annual non-ad valorem assessment that would fund local costs of water and wastewater facilities to serve the district. A total of 280 ballots were mailed to owners of record of parcels which would benefit from new public water and wastewater service. Nassau County and the District have been awarded funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and State Legislature to plan and design the new systems which could replace existing well and septic systems. The local property assessments would be required to provide a local match for significant additional State construction funding.

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 22nd and 23rd 2021 by staff from Andy Easton & Associates, an independent community development consultant that was not otherwise involved in the ballot initiative.

The response rate of returned ballots was 64%. The ballot count showed that 86% of the 172 valid votes that were cast supported the annual assessment.

The community response provides direction to the Board of County Commissioners on moving forward with water and wastewater facilities within the American Beach Water and Sewer District. As such, the Board of County Commissioners will continue pursuing this project with the Florida Governmental Utility Authority for project management as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for funding opportunities.

For additional information related to the Straw Ballot or water/wastewater utilities within the American Beach Water and Sewer District, you can call (904) 530-6012 or email abwsdadmin@nassaucountyfl.com. Please provide your name, contact information and the general nature of your inquiry. Nassau County staff will ensure the appropriate party return your call or email.