

**ELECTIONS OFFICE
REPORT
REFERENDUM
2012**



**SUBMITTED BY
SUPERVISOR
OF ELECTIONS**

**ELECTION OFFICE REPORT
REFERENDUM 2012**

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**REFERENDUM
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SECTION I

ISSUING OF WRITS

ISSUING OF WRITS

Once the Referendum Law came into effect the Governor issued the writs of referendum which the Supervisor served on the six returning officers. These writs were issued on the 17th May, 2012.

The said writs were all returned to the Governor on Friday, 20th July 2012 with the results of the referendum by district recorded thereon. With the return of the writs the Supervisor of Elections also provided the Governor with the inventory of all referendum paraphernalia used at the polls and referred to in section 61(1) of the Elections Law that was secured in safe custody in accordance with section 62(1) of the said law. This paraphernalia for which the Governor holds the key is kept until the 1st anniversary of the referendum as has been the rule since 1959 section 62(3) applies.

FORM NO. 14

Section 6 (2)

WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Delano Oliver Solomon*

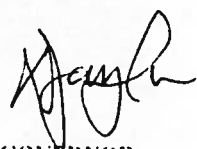
The Returning Officer of the WEST BAY, Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

And whereas I deem it expedient that writs should be issued for a referendum to determine whether voters support an electoral system of single-member constituencies with each elector being entitled to cast only one vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUNCAN TAYLOR, CBE Governor of the Cayman Islands do hereby require that you do on the 18th day of July, 2012, between the hours of 7:00 in the forenoon and 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon, cause polling of the electorate for the said Electoral District.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands this 17th day of May, 2012, and in the 61st year of Her Majesty's reign.


GOVERNOR



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Edward Louis Solomon*

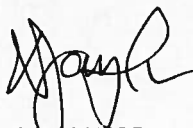
The Returning Officer of the GEORGE TOWN, Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

And whereas I deem it expedient that writs should be issued for a referendum to determine whether voters support an electoral system of single-member constituencies with each elector being entitled to cast only one vote.

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GOVERNOR



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Tristan Scott Hydes*

The Returning Officer of the BODDEN TOWN, Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

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Duncan Taylor
GOVERNOR



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Alice Ann Louise Kirchman*

The Returning Officer of the NORTH SIDE Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

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Duncan Taylor
GOVERNOR



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Philip Antonio Barnes*

The Returning Officer of the EAST END, Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

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GOVERNOR



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To *Dave Talbot Tatum*

The Returning Officer of the CAYMAN BRAC & LITTLE CAYMAN, Electoral District.

WHEREAS by section 6 (2) of the referendum (Single-Member Constituencies) Law, 2012 it is provided that for the purpose of conducting a referendum in an Electoral District and assisting the Supervisor in conducting the count of votes cast in the referendum, the Governor shall in writing appoint such persons as may be necessary under the Public Seal of the Cayman Islands, addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts.

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Duncan Taylor
GOVERNOR



**REFERENDUM
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SECTION II

REFERENDUM PROGRAMME

REFERENDUM PROGRAMME

The referendum, 2012 programme was prepared by the Elections Office and approved by the Governor immediately after the announcement was made by the Premier and the Draft Referendum Law was prepared.

As stated elsewhere in this report preparations for the 2012 Referendum were conducted within an abbreviated time frame. With such a programme it was necessary to recruit personnel, acquire equipment and supplies, select alternate polling and counting stations and conduct many hours of training in order to deliver the referendum on the prescribed day.

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SECTION III

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

Once the Premier made known the date of the referendum a rush ensued by individuals wishing to register to vote. However, the period for registration in order to be placed on the July 1st list had passed, as the final date for registration was April 1st. The Elections Office explained to the public that although the period for registration for the July 1st, 2012 list had closed any qualified individuals could still apply to be placed on a subsequent list, which would afford them the privilege to vote at any future elections or referendum. There was a considerable amount of rhetoric in the public domain about the inability of persons to register and accusations made that the Elections Office was refusing to allow individuals to register to vote in the referendum.

It was made abundantly clear from the outset that the permanent registers of electors are revised on a quarterly basis and as such a cut-off date has to be established which in this case was April 1st. This procedure has been in effect since November, 1999.

A registration drive is to get underway on September 1st through to December 1st, 2012 in all 6 electoral districts. All individuals who are qualified to be included on the register of electors should take this opportunity to register. Registering Officers or their assistants will be at supermarkets each Saturday throughout the registration drive between the hours of 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Registration forms are available online as well as at the Saturday stations.

All electors (voters) whose names appear on a register of electors in any of the 6 electoral districts need to ensure that their particulars as recorded on the particular register is accurate. That is, their name, occupation and street address. It is very important for an elector who has changed his or her street address to complete the requisite Form 13 making the necessary change within the 3-month timeframe prescribed by Law. This is of particular importance in that the address, even within the same electoral district, determines where one votes. If an elector moves to another district and has not filed a Form 13 with the registering officer, either in the district from which he or she has moved or to the registering officer in the district which he or she has moved to. Failure to comply with this aspect of the Law will result in the elector being removed from the register of electors.

In order to assist registering officers, particularly in the larger districts with purging their registers of electors, electors who are aware of those who are currently on the lists but no longer reside in that district the Elections Office would be grateful if they would either complete a Form 9 (Objection) or contact the registering officer for that particular district. With the number of new Caymanians and movement between districts it is becoming increasingly difficult for registering officers to keep track of these movements.

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SECTION IV

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Elections Office wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the support of H.E. the Governor, the Deputy Governor and the Chief Officer in the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs.

The Elections Office was advised of the referendum shortly after the Premier made his announcement in the Legislative Assembly on April 11th, 2012. In order to meet the abbreviated time frame it was necessary to immediately recruit an experienced team with the requisite skill sets to augment the existing elections staff. Without these individuals undertaking the sundry arrangements it would have been practically impossible to deliver the 2012 Referendum on July 18, 2012. Special mention must be made and kudos extended to those individuals who so unselfishly went that extra mile under quite stressful conditions to deliver their assigned responsibilities.

The returning officers and their deputies must also be commended for the professional manner in which they conducted their affairs in their respective electoral districts. The level of commitment exhibited by these officers epitomizes what the Elections Office is all about.

To the presiding officers, poll clerks and field officers the Elections office commends them for volunteering to participate on such short notice and for the sacrifice they made in attending the many hours of training and at the polls, as well as those who also assisted with the count. This is a strong indication of what teamwork is all about.

Without such a dedicated logistics and assignments team who worked many long hours dealing with a myriad of preparations it would not have been possible to meet the many abbreviated deadlines which were encountered.

The Elections Office would wish to also commend the police for the sterling performance of duties throughout the whole referendum programme. Special mention must be made of the liaison officer who worked closely with the team from the beginning and was a pleasure to work with.

The Governor appointed observers for the 6 districts. Those observers were from quite a cross-section of the community and took their responsibilities quite seriously throughout the programme. A number of these individuals participated in the issuing of postal ballots and mobile polling. Again the Elections Office wishes to record its appreciation for this level of commitment and civic responsibility.

The scrutineers of both parties must also be recognized for their contribution to this event. Like the observers appointed by the Governor, they were appointed by their parties to observe the conduct of the referendum.

The media deserves a big vote of thanks for working closely with the Elections Office in getting topical information out to the public in a timely manner. Without their assistance over the many years that they have been team players public education would not have reached the level it has today on the elections process and more recently referenda.

Without the nerve centre of operations – the command centre – it would be extremely difficult for the elections office to co-ordinate all the activities taking place during polling and the count. The Elections Office wishes to thank all the officers for a job well done.

Finally, to all those others in the public domain and all voters for their support and co-operation, accolades to all!

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SECTION V

**POSTAL BALLOTS
AND
MOBILE VOTING**

POSTAL BALLOTS AND MOBILE VOTING

A total of 342 postal ballots were issued over a period of 5 weeks commencing on 5th June and ending on the 6th July 2012. Some applicants waited until the eve of the cut-off to apply and complained if their ballots did not reach them in time while others applied in good time and did not receive theirs in time. This was not the fault of the returning officers or Elections Office whose responsibility ends once the ballots are posted. Of the 342 postal ballots issued 284 were received prior to the close of the polls. As the name implies these are postal ballots and can only be posted through the postal service. The Elections Office has to maintain a record of every postal ballot sent and therefore utilizes the registered mail service offered by the Post Office. It should be noted that in some jurisdictions postal voting has been discontinued.

Mobile voting, which was introduced in 2009, eliminated the need for those who cannot attend the polls because of being physically challenged, geriatric at home or because of the general nature of their occupation, service or employment to vote by postal ballots. A total of 302 voters took advantage of this method of voting. There were those who opted to attend the polls which is always the case. This places additional burden on staff at polling stations.

For the upcoming general elections in May, 2013 the Elections Office urges individuals who will be off-island and is aware of this well before hand to complete the requisite application form for a postal ballot once the Governor has issued the Proclamation declaring general elections which will be in March, 2013. The form is online on the Elections Office website. As is mentioned elsewhere in this report if voters currently on the registers of electors are now residing abroad, registering officers will be checking to determine whether they in fact now meet the residency requirements as prescribed in the Constitution.

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SECTION VI

THE COMMAND CENTRE

THE COMMAND CENTRE

An operations or command centre is established for any referendum, the general elections or a by election. This has been the rule rather than the exception for upwards of 25 years. In essence, it is the Elections Office's nerve centre. It monitors all aspects of an elections/referendum and provides support to all polling divisions throughout the taking of the polls and count. It is staffed by a team of individuals selected by the Supervisor and his deputies and trained to undertake the assignments delegated to each member. This centre also provides, as one of its many duties, continuous information to the public on polling and the count. This is done with the assistance of the media who have to be accredited. While the media share a portion of the room where the command centre is situated it should be noted that there is a partition separating both teams and strict protocols as to what they can or cannot do whilst in attendance. For the record this arrangement has worked for all these years and will continue, as the media has always done a fantastic job in public education and have always been the ultimate team players.

The command centre, due to its many assignments is off-limits to the public whilst operational. This includes other election officers who are not appointed to work at that centre. The Governor who is responsible for issuing the writs and the Attorney General or his designate for legal advice along with the supervisor and his deputies are the only other persons allowed into the centre. The police maintain a separate command centre which is situated in close proximity to the Elections command centre.

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SECTION VII

SECURITY

SECURITY

In order to further ensure the integrity of the polls the police play a significant role from the printing of the ballots through to the delivery of the ballot boxes and other elections paraphernalia to the polling and counting stations. This has been the rule in the Elections Office for the past 3 decades.

The Elections Law also specifies who can be present at a polling station during the taking of the polls. Included in that list are uniformed police officers. These officers (one inside each polling station) are there to provide oversight during polling and to support the presiding officers in maintaining order. During the referendum these officers conducted themselves in a most professional manner during both the polling period and the count. At the debriefing it was noted that no incidents were reported which is a plus for the manner in which the voters conducted themselves and the police maintained order.

With the count being conducted in each electoral district instead of at a central location this placed an additional burden on the police for instead of just one location they had to be at 6. With 166 officers deployed in shifts over a period of almost 24 hours this was quite a taxing assignment.

In addition to police security the Elections Office deployed other security at all polling stations throughout the night prior to the taking of the polls to ensure that nothing untoward occurred. With thousands of voters attending these polling stations the Elections Office has to ensure the safety of these individuals, the polling teams, observers and other personnel.

The supervisor and his deputies also visited all polling and counting stations during the night prior to polling day in order to determine that all was in order.

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SECTION VIII

**PROCEEDINGS AT
THE POLL AND COUNT**

PROCEEDINGS AT THE POLLS AND COUNT

The Polls:

All polling stations in the 6 electoral districts commenced polling promptly at 7:00 A.M. on the morning of 18th July, 2012 immediately after Deputy Supervisor Mr. Colford Scott declared the polls open. Polling was brisk during the morning hours but waned as the day progressed. Polling teams were all trained to poll all voters on the list for their respective polling stations.

A total of 8,676 voters or 57.23% of electors in the 6 districts voted on Polling Day, by post and at the mobile stations this was a moderate turnout. With the Referendum Law stating that the question would not have been answered in favour of single-member constituencies unless more than fifty percentum of persons registered as electors in accordance with section 90 of the Constitution, voted in the said referendum in favour of the question. The Law also specified that the referendum could only be binding on the Government if more than 50 percentum of persons registered as electors voted in favour or against the question.

A total of 39 polling stations were established to accommodate voters, with 8 in West Bay, 15 in George Town, 8 in Bodden Town, 2 in North Side, 2 in East End and 4 in Cayman Brac. In the case of West Bay tents and an alternative church had to be utilized due to the unavailability of the usual venues. While it was an extremely hot day polling proceeded smoothly and at the close of the polls no voters were in line to be polled.

Once the polls closed presiding officers and their poll clerks proceeded to reconcile their paper work and seal their ballot boxes in preparation for transport as the case may be to the counting station in their electoral district where they handed them over to their Returning Officers. Some presiding officers had to be transported to the counting stations and were accompanied by the police, observers and where possible scrutineers.

As has been the rule over a number of years the Elections Office has provided information booths in all polling divisions to accommodate voters. This has proven over the years to be quite a welcome addition to the voting process in that it provides voters with guidance to their assigned polling stations, whether at that specific polling division or elsewhere, as well as it allows individuals to determine whether they are actually registered. Many voters took to calling the Elections Office to determine whether they were registered. The Elections Office has endeavoured to discourage this practice as the onus is on the individual to either check the list posted in the districts or online. This is due to the fact that many voters use their middle names or nicknames and the Elections Office does not want to be blamed for advising someone that he or she is not on the list.

The Count:

The Elections Office appointed 7:00 P.M. as the time the count would commence in the six districts. Due to a number of postal ballots having to be processed prior to the actual count commencing some districts completed their counts even before George Town got underway. It was anticipated that with a high turnout the count would not be finalized until 2:00 A.M. on Thursday morning. With a modest turnout that time was adjusted to midnight.

The count was completed before midnight with all but the district of West Bay voting in favour of the question. However, the result was not binding as less than 50 percentum of persons registered as electors voted in favour or against the referendum question. The Supervisor's certificate along with other statistical information is provided herewith for ease of reference. It should also be noted that no segment of any count was recounted.

Referendum (Single-member Constituencies) Law, 2012, Section 6 (2)
NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH ANSWER
REFERENDUM 2012
 Certificate of the Supervisor of Elections

Date: _____ Dep. Super: _____ Signature: _____ Supervisor: _____ Signature: _____		Count Coordinators: _____					
		Observers at Main Count: _____					
		DISTRICTS					
	George Town	West Bay	Bodden Town	East End	North Side	Cayman Brac & Little Cayman	% (of reg. voters)
YES	2,360	1,027	1,396	257	335	256	37.14%
	993	1,053	617	79	56	203	19.79%
	13	14	8	1	6	2	0.29%
NO							
REJECTED							
Total Persons voting	3,366	2,094	2,021	337	397	461	57.23%
Registered voters:	15,161	FINAL NUMBERS HAVE A BLUE BACKGROUND Numbers without a blue background are not final and are only interim counts.					

THE REFERENDUM (SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES) LAW, 2012. Section 61(1)
Referendum, 2012

Hourly Poll Returns
18th July, 2012
Report of the Supervisor of Elections

Electoral District		# of Reg. Electors	less Dec.	# of Elig Electors	less P.B. Issued	% of Elig Electors	less Mobile	% of Elig Electors	# to be Polled	NUMBER OF ELECTORS POLLED @ TIME								% Polled
Division	Station									7 to 9:00	9 to 11:00	11 to 1:00	1 to 3:00	3 to 5:00	5 to 6:00	TOTAL		
WEST BAY																		
WBNW	1	483	1	482	4	0.83%	9	1.87%	469	64	67	24	29	30	17	231	47.93%	
	2	529	1	528	10	1.89%	6	1.14%	512	76	37	68	49	32	20	282	53.41%	
WBC	1	389	3	386	4	1.04%	3	0.78%	379	53	45	45	18	23	10	194	50.26%	
	2	401	1	400	0	0.00%	10	2.50%	390	50	44	56	41	18	9	218	54.50%	
WBE	1	518	0	518	11	2.12%	7	1.35%	500	72	75	56	37	42	13	295	56.95%	
	2	543	2	541	11	2.03%	4	0.74%	526	98	62	47	46	41	16	310	57.30%	
WBS	1	424	2	422	10	2.37%	9	2.13%	403	62	64	60	39	14	8	247	58.53%	
	2	398	1	397	10	2.52%	8	2.02%	379	52	55	45	28	20	9	209	52.64%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		3,685	11	3,674	60	1.63%	56	1.52%	3,558	527	449	401	287	220	102	1,986	54.06%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										2,102		or		57.21%				
GEORGE TOWN																		
GTN	1	478	0	478	15	3.14%	6	1.26%	457	58	66	53	29	24	9	239	50.00%	
	2	435	0	435	6	1.38%	6	1.38%	423	55	68	33	16	16	9	197	45.29%	
GTC	1	301	1	300	3	1.00%	7	2.33%	290	40	39	30	8	21	5	143	47.67%	
	2	321	1	320	9	2.81%	3	0.94%	308	53	40	27	18	20	5	163	50.94%	
	3	312	0	312	4	1.28%	4	1.28%	304	38	40	34	18	23	10	163	52.24%	
GTW	1	460	0	460	12	2.61%	6	1.30%	442	74	72	45	36	20	5	252	54.78%	
	2	439	1	438	10	2.28%	11	2.51%	417	63	44	35	40	19	12	213	48.63%	
GTS	1	417	0	417	22	5.28%	0	0.00%	395	63	58	42	30	16	10	219	52.52%	
	2	465	1	464	21	4.53%	9	1.94%	434	66	42	62	47	21	9	247	53.23%	
GTE	1	371	0	371	9	2.43%	10	2.70%	352	50	51	50	30	19	8	208	56.06%	
	2	369	1	368	17	4.62%	5	1.36%	346	48	58	43	32	22	8	211	57.34%	
	3	323	0	323	7	2.17%	5	1.55%	311	31	41	48	28	25	8	181	56.04%	
PROSP	1	458	2	456	12	2.63%	7	1.54%	437	56	66	53	29	33	14	251	55.04%	
	2	388	0	388	8	2.06%	2	0.52%	378	58	74	44	24	28	7	235	60.57%	
	3	374	2	372	14	3.76%	8	2.15%	350	53	60	40	31	19	8	211	56.72%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		5,911	9	5,902	169	2.86%	89	1.51%	5,644	806	819	639	416	326	127	3,133	53.08%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										3,391		or		57.46%				
CAYMAN BRAC & LITTLE CAYMAN																		
CBW&LC	1	276	5	271	5	1.85%	16	5.90%	250	21	41	21	17	21	3	124	45.76%	
	2	304	7	297	2	0.67%	18	6.06%	277	29	19	24	24	14	6	116	39.06%	
CBE	1	171	5	166	0	0.00%	7	4.22%	159	13	31	15	8	16	6	89	53.61%	
	2	208	6	202	2	0.99%	4	1.98%	196	22	24	10	8	11	5	80	39.60%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		959	23	936	9	0.96%	45	4.81%	882	85	115	70	57	62	20	409	43.78%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										463		or		49.47%				
BODDEN TOWN																		
SAVNEW	1	500	0	500	16	3.20%	4	0.80%	480	81	70	58	50	26	11	296	59.20%	
	2	460	0	460	16	3.48%	7	1.52%	437	57	69	50	36	27	8	247	53.70%	
	3	494	0	494	17	3.44%	11	2.23%	466	68	69	50	27	36	7	257	52.02%	
BTW	1	337	0	337	2	0.59%	13	3.86%	322	59	39	41	18	17	11	185	54.90%	
	2	335	0	335	7	2.09%	7	2.09%	321	53	47	31	27	17	8	183	54.63%	
BTE	3	393	0	393	6	1.53%	11	2.80%	376	59	45	54	30	22	12	222	56.49%	
	1	472	2	470	4	0.85%	10	2.13%	456	59	54	56	28	27	20	244	51.91%	
	2	476	1	475	15	3.16%	6	1.26%	454	61	44	54	39	34	15	247	52.00%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		3,467	3	3,464	63	2.40%	69	1.99%	3,312	497	437	394	255	206	92	1,881	54.30%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										2,033		or		58.69%				
NORTH SIDE																		
NS	1	241	0	241	6	2.49%	11	4.56%	224	40	37	31	26	20	7	161	66.80%	
	2	310	0	310	8	2.58%	10	3.23%	292	56	63	40	24	15	4	202	65.16%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		551	0	551	14	2.54%	21	3.81%	516	96	100	71	50	35	11	363	65.88%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										398		or		72.23%				
EAST END																		
EE	1	270	1	269	5	1.86%	11	4.09%	253	30	33	35	19	22	1	140	52.04%	
	2	318	1	317	2	0.63%	11	3.47%	304	37	38	32	27	22	12	168	53.00%	
DISTRICT TOTAL		588	2	586	7	1.19%	22	3.75%	557	67	71	67	46	44	13	308	52.56%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										337		or		57.51%				
GRAND TOTALS		15,161	48	15,113	342	2.26%	302	2.00%	14,469	2,078	1,991	1,642	1,111	893	365	8,080	53.46%	
Mobile Ballots + Postal Ballots + Total Polled =										8,724		or		57.73%				

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SECTION IX

THE MEDIA

THE MEDIA

As stated in the past, back in the 1980's the Elections Office recognized the need to have the media as an integral part of the team in order to inform and educate the electorate and general public, as well as to promote transparency in the elections process. Ever since that decision was taken the media has played a major role in reaching every household with topical information on every aspect of the process from registration to the count. Without the media's support it would prove extremely difficult to reach the public. Gone are days when the Elections Office had to post notices on Government notice boards around the islands.

In order to keep the public informed the media is always invited to share a space at the Command Centre. While in the same hall they are separated from the command centre itself and there are certain protocols which they have to observe. This arrangement has worked quite satisfactorily over these many years and will continue. There were questions asked about why the media was at the Command Centre and the above should provide the answer. All members of the media are accredited and provided with ID's well before hand. Government Information Services assists in this aspect of operations.

There was a complaint communicated to the Elections Office that a certain media house had purported to have conveyed misinformation to the public regarding voter turnout at a specific time during polling. This was immediately corrected by the reporter. It was also brought to the attention of the Elections Office that reporters at the Command Centre were giving their opinions of the Referendum. Whilst this may have occurred it should be noted that the Command Centre had no control over what the media published. The Command Centre, as in the past, is separated from the media section of the hall and statistical information is fed into that area by television monitor or by the team leader at intervals. There are strict protocols to be observed by the media which are provided well before hand.

REFERNDUM, 2012 COMMAND CENTRE RULES

MEDIA

- 1. All members of the media, prior to being admitted to the Command Centre must display a photo ID issued by the Elections Office.**
- 2. All members of the media, whilst in the Command Centre, must refrain from engaging Command Centre personnel in conversation, particularly seeking an opinion. The Command Centre is the nerve center of operations for the referendum and as such personnel must concentrate on their duties throughout the period of operation. The team leader will be the point of contact in the Command Centre when she is available. The team Leader for the Command Centre is Mrs. Leyda Nicholson-Makasare. The Supervisor and Deputies will also be frequenting the centre throughout the day and night.**
- 3. There will be a designated area of the command centre reserved for the media. The media will have access to the kitchen and rest area.**
- 4. Due to the level of activity in the command centre loud talk will not be permitted. There will be continuous radio and telephone conversations between the command centre, polling divisions, the Elections Office, logistics officers and counting stations. All incoming and outgoing calls will be logged which is why it is important to minimize noise at the centre.**
- 5. Due to limited space the Elections Office has to limit the number of members from the various media houses to one at any given time at the centre. Media houses may wish to appoint more than one member to attend and arrange to have them work in shifts with one arriving whilst the other is leaving similar to the scrutineers and observers at the polls.**
- 6. In order to ensure that all media houses are adequately accommodated at the command centre the Elections Office has appointed Government Information Services as co-ordinators to assist the team leader.**
- 7. Food and beverages will not be allowed in the command centre. Meals and refreshments will be provided by the Elections Office in the kitchen/rest area. The police command centre team will also be sharing the kitchen/rest area.**
- 8. The Command Centre will begin operating at 4:30 A.M. on Wednesday 18th July and cease operations whenever, the count is complete and the result is announced. This may very likely be in the early hours of Thursday morning.**
- 9. Cellular phones, blackberry's, i-pads and laptops may be used in the command centre. There will be a dedicated computer station with multi-user capability as well as a secure wireless point. A printer/copier fax will also be provided.**

**REFERENDUM
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SECTION X

**CAYMAN BRAC &
LITTLE CAYMAN
SUMMARY**

CAYMAN BRAC AND LITTLE CAYMAN SUMMARY

The Deputy Supervisor for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, along with his team delivered a very professionally run event, incident free. All preparations were effected in a timely manner including the issue of postal ballots, mobile voting, polling and the count. Once the count was finalized he and his team, along with 2 observers accompanied the ballot box containing all ballots counted at the counting station, other polling paraphernalia and the returning officer's certificate to Grand Cayman. Whilst the Elections Office had to limit its travel to the Brac due to the unavailability of funds the fact that the Deputy Supervisor and his team, as well as most of the polling officers are seasoned veterans contributed towards every aspect of the referendum going according to plan.

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SECTION XI

STAFFING AND TRAINING

STAFFING AND TRAINING

In order to conduct an event such as an elections or referendum a significant number of persons have to be recruited and trained. In the case of the 2012 referendum a total of 374 persons participated. This included returning officers, deputy returning officer, registering officers, presiding officers, poll clerks, field officers, logistics officers and observers, along with administrative staff.

The Elections Office has always placed considerable emphasis on training as it is said in the Commonwealth, "training is an essential element in safeguarding the integrity of an elections process". A training team was appointed immediately after the announcement was made to hold this referendum. The first order of business in preparation for the many training sessions was to produce a number of handbooks as listed below:

Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers
Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Field Officers
Observers/Scrutineers

Training sessions were conducted for all persons appointed to participate in this referendum. These sessions continued right up until Referendum Day. It was necessary to hold a series of additional sessions in order to accommodate replacement officers. Attendance at these sessions was from as little as 12 persons to over 260. All participants must be commended for spending many hours in training when they could have been otherwise involved in other activities.