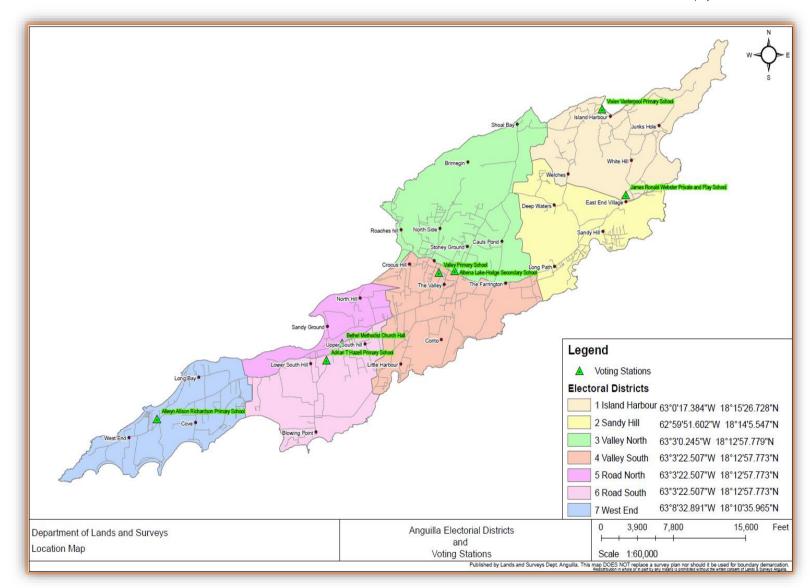
Anguilla House of Assembly
General Elections

Anguilla

## Supervisor of Elections Report

(mandated by the Elections Act, 2019, as amended, Section 69(5)



Rodney M. Rey
July, 2020

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2020 General Elections marked a watershed in the conduct of elections in Anguilla. There were several changes that were designed to make the election process, free and fair. The use of modern technology made the process more efficient and effective. The innovations included:

- Enactment of a modern legislative framework, namely, the Elections Act, 2019, as amended and the Elections Registration Regulations, 2020
- Development of an Online Voter Database
- Introduction of Voter Registration Cards
- Introduction of Electronic Poll Books
- Introduction of Advance Polls for certain categories of voters
- Introduction of electronic tabulating of votes using DS200 Electronic Tabulation Machines



- Commissioning of a full service, stand-alone Central Electoral Office
- Conduct of public voter education sessions
- Introduction of a Single Island Wide Electoral District to elect four (4) candidates in addition to the seven (7) Single Member Electoral Districts.

The election campaign and the preparation for the elections by the Central Electoral Office were hampered by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic. Anguilla, like the rest of the world introduced strict health and safety protocols including lockdowns of non-essential government departments and the closure of the country's borders.

At present, the borders remain closed. This meant that registered voters who reside overseas could not enter to vote. This affected the overall voter turnout compared to the 2015 General Elections.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the closure of the country's borders prevented a physical observer mission from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) for the 2020 General Elections. The alternative was an Election Expert Mission which did their observations online.

Physical observation of the election process was carried out by a team of local observers assembled by the Anguilla Christian Council and the Anguilla Evangelical Association. Training and logistics for this Anguilla Independent Citizens Observers Team were coordinated by the Governor's Office. The team leaders were Reverend Dr. Whycherly Gumbs, Pastor Phillip Gumbs and Ms. Avenella Griffith.

Election officers spent countless hours of training between May 2019 to June 2020 in order to operate the new DS200 Tabulating Machines and the Electronic Poll Book and to understand the requirements of the new Elections Act, 2019 as amended. Returning Officer, Mrs. Daphne Jacobs-Richardson volunteered her services as training officer and along with DITES Staff, Mr. Clemaurde Gumbs and Mr. Delon Skellekie gave expert technical support on site and at the various public education sessions. Mrs. Daphne Jacobs-Richardson with the assistance of Ms. Laureen Bryan was instrumental in producing and printing detailed guidelines for all election officers.

## **OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

The Central Electoral Office conducted its operations with the following staff:

Supervisor of Elections - Mr. Rodney Rey

Deputy Supervisor of Elections - Mrs. Maria Hughes

Electoral Registration Officer - Ms. Kerissa Proctor

Assistant Registration Officer - Mr. Corey Buffonge

Administrative Assistant - Mrs. Louise Hazell

Custodian - Mr. Nicholas Gumbs

The Supervisor of Elections up to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 was Ms. Aurjul Wilson. Ms. Suzette Harrigan of the Department of Public Administration was loaned to the Central Elector Office during peak customer demand.

The Central Electoral Office received expert technical support from the Department of Information, Technology and E-Government Services (DITES). During the period January 2018 to July 2019, Mr. Rohan Petty designed and developed the application to create the Voter Registration Database. He patiently transferred all of the data from the Register of Voters to the new online database. Also, Mr. Clemaurde Gumbs designed and installed the application for the new Electronic Poll Book and he along with Mr. Delon Skellekie designed and installed the application for the display of the election results from the Electronic Tabulating Machines.

Voting for Advance Polls and General Elections was facilitated by the technical expertise of Mr. Tim Webster and colleagues of DITES who installed the internet network at all polling stations.

### OVERVIEW OF THE CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION PROCESS

Since the 2015 General Elections the continuous voter registration programme was smoothly implemented. Voters who met the qualifications for registration were automatically entered into the voter database. This facilitated the preparation of the various lists of voters as required by law.

Following a busy registration period in the first quarter of 2020, the Revised Preliminary List/Register of Voters recorded 11,951 voters. This was a 9.55% increase over the 10,909 registered voters for the 2015 General Elections. The continuous voter registration programme was complemented by the issue of Voter Registration Cards, which were used for the first time in the 2020 General Elections. A total of 6,799 voters collected Voter Registration cards.

On election day there were a few instances where a voter's name was listed in the voter database but did not appear on the Register of Voters. These clerical errors will be corrected.

One negative aspect of the registration process was the provisional registration of voters who, according to learned legal advice, did not meet all the requirements for registration as set out in the Anguilla Constitution Order, Section 43(1). As a result, the registration of thirty-six (36) persons was rejected by the High Court.

## **OVERVIEW OF ADVANCE POLLS**

For the first time in the history of elections in Anguilla, Advance Polls were conducted on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. A total of 744 voters applied to vote at the Advance Polls. Polls opened at 9.00 a.m. and closed at 5.00 p.m. Voting was conducted at the following polling stations:

House of Assembly - Districts 1, 3, 4 and 6

Magistrate's Court - District 5

High Court - District 2

Internal Audit Department - District 7

Voting at the House of Assembly was chaotic for the first few hours. The building proved to be very unsuitable for the number of districts assigned to it and for the accommodation of voters with severe physical handicaps.

Voting at the other polling stations went smoothly throughout the day. The table below shows registration for Advance Polls by Districts.

Table 1- Registration for Advance Polls by District

District	No. of Applicants
1-Island Harbour	80
2-Sandy Hill	73
3-Valley North	161
4-Valley South	175
5-Road North	82
6-Road South	127
7-West End	46
TOTAL	744

## **OVERVIEW OF GENERAL ELECTIONS 2020**

Nomination Day was Friday 12 June, 2020. A total of 32 candidates were duly nominated by 4.00 p.m. For the first time, candidates were nominated for the Single Island Wide Electoral District. Tables II and III below show details of the candidates nominated.

**Table II-Details of Nominated Candidates for the Single Member Electoral Districts** 

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	PARTY/INDEPENDENT	#
1-Island Harbour	Oris Smith	AUF	
	Ellis L. Webster	APM	3
	Palmavon Webster	Independent	
2-Sandy Hill	Cora Richardson-Hodge	AUF	2
	Jerome Roberts	APM	
3-Valley North	Courtney Morton	APM	2
	Evans McNiel Rogers	AUF	
4-Valley South	Victor F. Banks	AUF	2
	Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers	APM	
5-Road North	Evalie Bradley	AUF	
	Rommel Hughes	Independent	3
	Merrick Richardson	APM	
6-Road South	Hadyn Austin Forte Hughes	APM	2
	Curtis Richardson	AUF	
7-West End	Cardigan Connor	AUF	
	Kimberly Fleming	APM	3
	Jamie Hodge	Independent	
TOTAL			17

## Summary of number of seats contested for the Single Member Electoral Districts:

Anguilla United Front	7
Anguilla Progressive Movement	7
Independent	3

Table III – Details of Nominated Candidates for Single Island Wide Electoral District

CANDIDATES	PARTY/INDEPENDENT	#
Brent Davis	INDEPENDENT	1
Marvo Merlin Duncan-Webster	INDEPENDENT	1
Lanny Hobson	INDEPENDENT	1
Glenneva Hodge	INDEPENDENT	1
Sutcliffe Hodge	INDEPENDENT	1
Elkin Richardson	INDEPENDENT	1
Aunika Webster-Lake	INDEPENDENT	1
Quincia Gumbs-Marie	APM	
Kennedy Hodge	APM	_
Kenneth Hodge	APM	4
Kyle Hodge	APM	
Lockhart Hughes	AUF	
Mark Romney	AUF	
Jose Vanterpool	AUF	4
Othlyn Vanterpool	AUF	
TOTAL		15

## Summary of number of seats contested for the Single Island Wide Electoral District:

Anguilla United Front	4
Anguilla Progressive Movement	4
Independents	7

General Elections Day was 29 June, 2020. Voting began on time at all polling stations except for those at West End where there was a short delay due to lack of electricity supply. The following tables show the data for registered voters and the numbers who voted at each of the twenty (20) polling stations.

<u>Table IV: District 1 – Island Harbour</u>

<b>Polling Station</b>	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	612	322	52.61
2	606	338	55.77
3	606	343	56.60
TOTAL	1824	1003	54.99

Table V: District 2 – Sandy Hill

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	562	332	59.07
2	491	295	60.08
TOTAL	1053	627	59.5%

**Table VI: District 3 – Valley North** 

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	545	349	64.03
2	588	377	64.11
3	499	309	61.92
4	548	341	62.22
TOTAL	2180	1376	63.1%

**Table VII: District 4 – Valley South** 

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	731	454	62.1
2	684	416	60.81
3	520	327	62.88
4	725	436	60.13
TOTAL	2660	1663	62.5%

<u>Table VIII: District 5 – Road North</u>

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	620	380	61.2
2	573	344	60.0
TOTAL	1193	724	60.6%

**Table IX: District 6 – Road South** 

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	664	438	65.96
2	655	421	64.27
3	648	420	64.81
TOTAL	1967	1279	65.0%

Table X: District 7 – West End

Polling Station	Registered Voters	No. who voted	Percentage
1	642	356	55.45
2	432	265	61.34
TOTAL	1074	621	57.82%

Voting was heavy in the morning hours in all districts. Except for District 1, Island Harbour and District 6, Road South, most of the afternoon session was generally quiet. Polling Stations closed at 7.00 p.m. and all twenty (20) DS200 Tabulating Machines were brought to the House of Assembly for the tabulation of the results. After a delay of one hour for the delivery of the District 1, Island Harbour, Tabulating Machines, the tabulating process began at about 9.00 p.m. DITES staff, Mr. Delon Skellekie and Mr. Clemaurde Gumbs coordinated the tabulation and presented the results in screen shots for each district.

The proceedings were carried live on local media, the Government of Anguilla YouTube Channel and Facebook Page, In Anguilla Facebook Page in collaboration with Pink Mako and Lloyd Live. Technical support for the live streaming was provided by Mr. Vaughn Hazell and the staff of DITES. Mr. Keith 'Stone' Greaves of the Department of Information and Broadcasting (Radio Anguilla) enthusiastically commentated during the count.

After the initial electronic tabulation of the results, an electronic recount was demanded for Districts 2, 3 and 7. The electronic tabulation recount involved inserting the ballot papers one at a time into the DS200 machines. The results were the same as the data printed at the close of polls report.

The Anguilla Progressive Movement candidate for District 3 demanded a manual recount and this was scheduled for Tuesday 30 June, 2020 at 4.00 p.m. This manual recount yielded the identical data as at the close of polls report and the electronic recount.

The new voting system presented some challenges for some categories of voters. This is reflected in the surprisingly high number of spoiled ballots. Table XI below shows the number of spoiled ballots by district and polling stations.

**TABLE XI - Spoiled Ballots** 

	POLLING STATIONS				TOTAL
DISTRICT	One	Two	Three	Four	
1	8	16	13		37
2	10	10			20
3	17	17	24	15	73
4	32	22	13	23	90
5	18	15			33
6	23	29	31		83
7	20	16			36
TOTAL	128	125	81	38	372



## <u>Table XII – Distribution of Votes by Party/Independents for the Single Member Electoral Districts</u>

District	AUF	APM	Independents
1-Island Harbour	336	493	167
2-Sandy Hill	318	302	-
3-Valley North	697	657	-
4-Valley South	755	861	-
5-Road North	238	386	89
6-Road South	540	727	-
7-West End	286	263	72
TOTAL	3,170	3,689	328
PERCENTAGE	44.1%	51.3%	4.5%

<u>Table XIII – Distribution of Votes by Party/Independent Candidates in the Single Island Wide Electoral District</u>

DISTRICT	AUF	APM	INDEPENDENT
1-Island Harbour	1,202	1,798	821
2-Sandy Hill	930	1,002	485
3-Valley North	2,282	1,994	1,101
4-Valley South	2,443	2,630	1,350
5-Road North	814	1,243	713
6-Road South	1,239	2,346	1,195
7-West End	910	958	516
TOTAL	9,820	11,971	6,181
PERCENTAGE	35.1%	42.8%	22.1%

## **DATA FOR ELECTED CANDIDATES**

The screenshots below show the results of the polls by polling station in each Single Member Electoral District and the Single Island Wide Electoral District.







# ANGUILLA ELECTIONS

DISTRICT RESULTS





## DISTRICT RESULTS





## DISTRICT







# DISTRICT RESULTS



### Lockhart Hughes 2 2 2 2 **V**W W total votes: 302 total votes: 551 total votes: 237 Quincia Gumbs-Marie Aunika Lake 30 82 83 202 104 77 121 B 52 2 2 ANGUILLA ELECTIONS Island Wide Candidates N. W total votes: 569 total votes: 275 Kenneth Hodge **Brent Davis** total votes: 361 Othlyn Vanterpool 1136 74 105 212 2 2 2 2 22 23 25 N N total votes: 276 total votes: 706 total votes: 382 Kyle Hodge Lanny Hobson Jose Vanterpool 231 258 217 110 2 2 2 2 2 2 total votes: 540 total votes: 727 Haydn Hughes Curtis Richardson 246 267 214 189 152 199 Road South Candidates 2 2 2 2

total votes: 520

95 68 117

Kennedy Hodge

total votes: 280

total votes: 193

Sutcliffe Hodge

## DISTRICT RESULTS



# ANGUILLA ELECTIONS



## SUMMARY OF WINNERS







### **ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR 2020 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The Central Electoral Office was assisted by a highly motivated, competent and hardworking team of officials. The team began training in May 2019 and they all gave unselfishly of their time and talents. The full team is shown below:





**Returning Officers** 

Electoral Districts	Returning Officers	Polling Stations	Presiding Officers	Poll Clerks
Island Harbour	Sanford Richardson	1 2 3	Celestine John  Ludianne Leverette Richardson  Sharmer Fleming	Karen Lake Annette Duncan Kasseem Forde Ashona Brooks Alisha Anthony Monifa Brooks-Gumbs Normin M. James McLeod
Sandy Hill	Vonlee Harris	1 2	Perinet Hodge Sonia Richardson	Jillian Abbott Delores Hodge Glenda Joseph Samidah McDonna Drucilla Carter
Valley North	Laureen Bryan	1	Lauraine Gumbs	Daren E. Webster
		2	Florence Harrigan	Adellie Gibbons Shaldine Brooks
		3	Dorette Gumbs	Patsie Frederick-Wattley Gerda Connor
		4	Kenniva Brooks	Gertrude Saunders Clive F. Smith Sandra I Richardson Rudolph Proctor
Valley South	Melissa Meade	1	Sandra Gumbs	Meredith Connor Tavia Nelson-Connor
		2	Michelle Carty	Verrin Fleming
		3	Norma Gumbs	Brittany Christopher Nicola Webster
		4	Marcia Rogers	Gina Brooks Jamara Philip Angelina Carty Neil Gumbs
Road North	Florence P. Wattley	1	Collyana Ritchie-Brooks	Rochelle Rogers
		2	Shirley Hughes	Maglan Lewis Katrina Richardson Amarlia Richardson Vincent Carty
Road South	Daphne Jacobs-Richardson	1	Erica Edwards	Avon Carty
		2	Delta Hughes	Mitzie Richardson Everette M Proctor
		3	Samantha Henderson	Sheila Hodge Riorita Warner-Browne Wandaila-I Gumbs Janet Lake
West End	Carolyn Richardson-Hodge	1	Tricia Richardson	Uldean Trim Nickiesha Hughes
		2	Jevonne Vanterpool	Sharice Richardson Tanasha Duncan Ivy Baptiste

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Revise the constitutional provision on 'residence' as a requirement for voter registration.
- Amend the details/bio-data for the voter registration card to make it more akin to a national ID Card.
- Amend the Elections Act, 2019 to make it mandatory for all votes to present a Voters Registration Card in order to vote.
- Amend the Elections Act, 2019 Section 93 to give precedent to data in the electronic voter database over the hard copy Register of Voters.
- Conduct the Advance Polls the day before General Elections at the polling stations in the Districts.
- Begin voting in the Advance Polls at 7.00 a.m. and end at 4.00 p.m.
- Amend the Elections Act, Section 60, Advance Polls to include:
  - Fire and Rescue Officers
  - Medical Technologists
  - Prison Officers
- Amend the Elections Act to articulate the role of the Deputy Supervisor of Elections.
- Amend the Elections Act, Sections 65(14) and 64(11) to provide for a charge for a demand of an electronic recount and a charge ten times more for a demand of a manual recount.
- Amend the Elections Act to prohibit the use of cell phones at Polling Stations.
- Amend the Elections Act, Section 81 to take into consideration Advance Polling
  Day in clarifying when physical campaigning and broadcasting on media should
  cease.

- Explore the possibility of online nomination of candidates and/or reduce the hours for nomination of candidates.
- Increase the remuneration for election officers in line with the demands of the Elections Act, 2019, as amended.
- Clarify the role of police officers on Advance Polls and General Elections Day in order to eliminate allegations of canvassing/campaigning by candidates and agents within the 100 yards limit.

## Reprint of recommendations from the 2015 report:

- Priority should be given to the redrawing of the electoral boundaries which have not been changed since they were first drawn in 1972. Changes in Anguilla's demography (expansion of residential areas and patterns of settlement) have created a situation where there are large disparities in the distribution of registered voters among the seven electoral districts. This situation is not good for our democracy, and I recommend that a redrawing of the boundaries should be undertaken before the next general election constitutionally due in 2025.
- The elections law should be amended to:
  - regulate party campaign finance. Such regulation should include the requirement for public disclosure of contributors to, and recipients of, election campaign expenses in addition to providing other controls and checks.
  - Section 28 of the Elections Act should be amended to include time frames for the Court to act expeditiously and give priority to appeals from the Supervisor of Elections, especially in an election year.
  - The Elections Act should be amended to ensure that objections to the preliminary list of voters are not allowed within 30 days of the date of polling.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The successful conduct of 2020 General Elections would not have been possible without the generous support and patriotism of the following individuals and institutions.

- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Governor's Office
- Attorney General's Chambers
- Department of Public Administration
- Department of Internal Audit
- Department of Lands & Survey
- Department of Physical Planning
- Department of Education
- James Ronald Webster Private Play & Preschool
- Department of Environment
- Department of Disaster Management
- Department of Information, Technology & E-Government Services
- Department of Information and Broadcasting
- Ministry of Infrastructure (MICUH)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Social Development (Community Help Desk)
- Clerk and staff of the House of Assembly
- Customs & Excise Department
- Senior Magistrate and Staff
- Registrar of the High Court and staff
- Royal Anguilla Police Force
- The Anglican Church
- The Methodist Church
- Church of God Holiness
- 1st Anguilla Boys' Brigade Company
- Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Chanelle Petty-Barrett
- Truancy Officer (ALHCS), Ava Richardson

The preparation for and the election process required the services of many contractors/vendors. We sincerely thank the following:

Election Systems & Software Cheddie Enterprises

Anguilla Air Services Adams Telephone Services

Proxy Shipping & Courier Services Preston Hughes

Black Orchid Florists/BO Events BEP Services

Hi Tek Signs & Designs 4C's & I Rentals

Ron's Sign Shop Island Transport Services Ltd

Bass Car Rental Kreative Communications Network

Father & Son Trucking Translations & Document Services

Island Transport Services Lloyd Gumbs

Superior Industrial Equipment Roland Hodge

Multiplus Services Therriel Carty

In Anguilla & Titanium Sound Curtis Ruan

Pink Mako Michael Fleming

Thoughtful Digital Agency Nat Hodge's Public Relations

& Info Consultancy Services

Digicel Anguilla

Lake's Home Décor & Haberdashery

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2020 General Elections have come and gone and all Anguillans can be proud that our democracy is alive and well. The General Elections were free and fair and without violence and for this we must thank God and the electorate. The few problems encountered can be resolved if and when the recommendations made are implemented. Thanks to all and may Anguilla ever remain "**proud**, **strong** and **free**."

Rodney M. Rey

**Supervisor of Elections** 



