The Martha's Vineyard TIMES

Latest News

Aquinnah voters pass eight of 15 Prop 2.5 override questions. Refuse to fund regional assessments.

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Following a tumultuous annual town meeting Tuesday, Aquinnah voters went to the polls Wednesday to elect town officers and vote on a slate of 15 Proposition 2.5 override requests totaling $206,752.

Voter turnout was strong. A total of 157 voters out of 394, or 40 percent of the electorate, cast votes.

The only contested election was provided by Barbara Bassett who mounted a last minute write-in campaign against incumbent Jim Newman for a seat on the board of selectman. Mr. Newman won the election,72-59.

Voters said yes to only eight of the 15 Proposition 2.5 override questions. They turned down spending on several regional assessments, including the Martha's Vineyard Commission, Dukes County Regional Housing Authority and Shellfish Group.

Following are the results of voting for all of the override questions:

Question One: Shall the Town vote to have its Selectmen act as Assessors?

Yes [89 to 63]

Question Two: Shall the Town be recorded in favor of the following non-binding resolution on water quality protection whereas the Town of Aquinnah is considering contributing to the Massachusetts Estuaries Project for Squibnocket and Menemsha Ponds, which will indicate the Town's support for protecting the quality of our surface and drinking water, as well as the Town's recognition that these resources are critical to human health and welfare, our local economy, the shellfish and fishing industries, recreation, and the protection of our natural resources and wildlife, and whereas clean, unpolluted water is one of our most precious resources and is being seriously threatened by excess nitrogen which harms our shellfish and eel grass resources, be it resolved that the Town of Aquinnah will give careful consideration to the upcoming results of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project, will support all credible recommendations to protect our ponds, embayments, and drinking water from nitrogen and other pollutants, and will work with other Island towns to preserve and restore the quality of our waters? This is a non-binding ballot question.

Yes [140 to 9]

Question Three: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issue or borrowing in order to pay for the construction of a new garage and any other expenses related to said construction?

No [103 to 48]

Question Four: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $27,394.00 (Twenty-seven thousand three hundred ninety-four dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Martha's Vineyard Commission assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [92 to 61]

Question Five: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $27,000.00 (Twenty-seven thousand dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [90 to 64]

Question Six: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $40,625.00 (Forty thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of funding the Shellfish/Harbormaster operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [89 to 65]

Question Seven: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $6,055.00 (Six thousand fifty-five dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Dukes County Housing Authority assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [79 to 73]

Question eight: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $23,850.00 (Twenty-three thousand eight hundred fifty dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of funding the Community Programs operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [87 to 67]

Question Nine: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $23,102.00 (Twenty-three thousand one hundred two dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Martha's Vineyard Refuse District assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [101 to 52]

Question Ten: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $3,224.00 (Three thousand two hundred twenty-four dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Island Council on Aging Services assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [104 to 52]

Question Eleven: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $27,550.00 (Twenty-seven thousand five hundred fifty dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Up-Island Council on Aging Services assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [96 to 59]

Question Twelve: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $2,400.00 (Two thousand four hundred dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying the Assessors' salaries for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [88 to 66]

Question Thirteen: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $6,000.00 (Six thousand dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of funding the Assessors' expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [77 to 74]

Question Fourteen: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $15,552.00 (Fifteen thousand five hundred fifty-two dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of funding the Assessors' health insurance for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [113 to39]

Question Fifteen: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $4,000.00 (Four thousand dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of funding Library wages for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

Yes [103 to 53]

Question Sixteen: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $5,051.00 (Five thousand fifty-one dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of paying for installing a hard-wired Carbon Monoxide Detection System in the Fire Station for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [104 to 50]

Question Seventeen: Shall the Town of Aquinnah be allowed to assess an additional $3,500.00 (Three thousand five hundred dollars) in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of purchasing a new warning siren and platform for the Fire Station for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and six?

No [114 to 40]

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