

Bonnet Shores Fire District

2024 Election Voter Registration Analysis Clarification

September 27, 2024

There have been a few questions about the Election Voter Registration Analysis that was published on September 26, 2024. The intent of the analysis was to review the voter population that registered to vote in the election the night of the Annual Meeting (August 26, 2024). It is not intended to do a broader analysis of the eligible voter population as outlined in our current charter. That said, the following clarifications are being offered based on the questions we have received.

Proxy Forms

Proxy forms for LLCs, Firms and Corporations were required to be notarized and submitted 5 days prior to the election. They were reviewed by the Tax Collector and Tax Assessors for validity and added to the eligible voter list. Individual proxies could not be collected in advance of the election as they needed to be notarized and presented at the Proxy registration table in order to receive a ballot. There were 129 proxy ballots as noted in the chart below. All 129 proxy forms were reconciled against the *Narragansett BSFD Property Tax Roll* and accounted for in the total of 774 registered voters.

Voter Counts	
Total Registered Voters	774
<i>Note: Of the 774 total voters, there were 14 write-in registrations and 129 proxy ballots.</i>	

Note: Write-in registrations were individuals who showed proof of ownership (ie Deed)

Registration Alignment vs. BSFD Affiliation

Many voters have multiple affiliations with the BSFD. However, a voter could only **register once** to receive a ballot (one vote per eligible voter regardless of how many BSFD/BSBC properties are owned). Upon registration, the Tax Assessors highlighted the voters name on either the *Narragansett Voter Registration List* or the *Narragansett BSFD Property Owner Tax Roll*. Every person receiving a ballot was uniquely stamped to show if they registered at the Proxy Table or the Tax Assessors registration table. The below chart illustrates the Original Registration alignment as selected by the registration agents the night of the election:

Voter Registration Alignment		
Original Voter Registration Alignment		
<i>BSFD affiliation that was aligned at registration</i>		
Taxpayers	547	71%
<i>BSFD Property Owners</i>	256	33%
<i>BSBC Unit Owners</i>	291	38%
Narragansett Registered Voters	227	29%
Total	774	100%

Understanding that voters have multiple affiliations with the community, an analysis was done to determine if the registration selected on the night of the election could have been aligned differently.

The chart below illustrates that the registration process could have selected different affiliations resulting in the following data:

Revised Voter Registration Alignment		
<i>87 Voters could have been registered aligned to a different affiliation</i>		
Taxpayers	476	61%
<i>BSFD Property Owners</i>	212	27%
<i>BSBC Unit Owners</i>	264	34%
Narragansett Registered Voters	298	39%
Total	774	100%

BSFD Affiliations

As noted, the 774 voters could have multiple affiliations although there is only 1 vote per individual. There are 7 possible combinations of affiliations. The below chart was not included in the Voter Registration Analysis summary but based on the questions, it appears that the below breakout is of interest:

Voter Turnout By BSFD Affiliation		
BSFD Affiliation	Voters	
	Count	%
Only Narragansett Registered Voter	45	5.8%
Only BSFD Homeowner	117	15.1%
Only BSBC Unit Owner	246	31.8%
Narragansett Voter & BSFD Owner	180	23.3%
Narragansett Voter & BSBC Owner	9	1.2%
BSFD Homeowner and BSBC Owner	83	10.7%
All 3 (Narr Voter, BSFD Owner and BSBC Owner)	94	12.1%
TOTAL	774	100.0%

Note: This was a manual process to identify the 774 voter's affiliations using both the Narragansett Registered Voter list and the Narragansett BSFD Property Tax Roll. The data is considered directionally correct based on the source data having different variations of names.

Terms: “Resident” vs “Property Owner” vs. “Narragansett Voter”

The term “resident” is not used in the analysis intentionally. This is because the eligible voters came from two data sources:

- 1) Narragansett Registered Voters from the Board of Canvassers with an address in the BSFD
- 2) *Narragansett BSFD Property Owner Tax Roll* provided by the Town of Narragansett Tax Roll – this includes BSFD homeowners as well as BSBC owners.

We hope that this clarifies the analysis that was completed.