

**REPORT ON THE BY-ELECTION
IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF ST. GEORGE NORTH
HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

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**REPORT ON THE BY-ELECTION IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF
ST. GEORGE NORTH
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

1. ISSUE OF THE WRIT AND PROCLAMATIONS

1.1 On Friday October 2, 2020, the Governor-General acting in accordance with Section 47 (2) of the Constitution of Barbados, issued a Writ to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly occasioned by the resignation of The Honorable Gline Arley Clarke, J.P., who was the Member of Parliament for the constituency of St. George North.

1.2 The Writ, also issued in accordance with Section 36 of the Representation of The People Act, Cap 12 of the Laws of Barbados (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”), appointed the dates for Nomination Day, Polling Day and the day for the Return of the Writ as follows:-

Monday October 26, 2020	-	Nomination Day
Wednesday November 11, 2020	-	Polling Day
Thursday November 12, 2020	-	Latest day for the return of the Writ to the Governor-General

1.3 On Thursday October 8, 2020, in accordance with Section 18 (1) (a) of the Act, the Governor-General issued a Proclamation declaring the period ending Wednesday October 21, 2020 as the Special Electoral Registration Period and, by Order, appointed Wednesday November 4, 2020 as:

1. The Polling Day for Foreign Service Electors at Missions, in accordance with Rule 44 (1); and
2. The Special Polling Day for Election Officers, in accordance with Rule 30 (2A).

2. NOTICE OF ELECTION

2.1 The Notice of By-Election, which was published in the Official Gazette of October 8, 2020 and in the Nation and Advocate Newspapers of October 6, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 2 of the House of Assembly Election Rules, was also placed on the Nomination Centre, the Post Office and the Police station by the Returning Officer.

3. REVISED REGISTER OF ELECTORS – PRELIMINARY LIST

3.1 The Electoral and Boundaries Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) published the Revised Register of Electors also known as the Preliminary List of Electors on Monday October 5, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 (1) (b) of the Act.

3.2 The Preliminary List which comprised nine thousand, six hundred and ninety four (9,694) electors was made available to the six political parties. It was also placed in the Public Library in Bridgetown, the Library at the Glebe, St. George, the Electoral Department and the Revising Centre, for public viewing.

3.3 In accordance with Regulation 35A of the Representation of the People (Registration of Electors) Regulations 1990, Saturday October 10, 2020 was fixed as the last day for the receipt of claims while Tuesday October 13, 2020 was fixed as the last day for the receipt of objections. Therefore, on Tuesday October 6, 2020, a notice was placed in the press, which invited the public to inspect the Preliminary List. The notice stated that any person who was qualified to be registered as an elector for the constituency should make application no later than Saturday October 10, 2020 and stated that Tuesday October 13, 2020 was the last day on which all objections were to be filed with the Registering Officer at the Revising Centre. This information was also provided by Public Service Announcements (PSA) on the radio.

3.4 The Revising Centre established under Regulation 35 (3) of the Representation of the People (Registration of Electors) Regulations 1990 was located at The Valley Resource Centre, Glebe, St. George. The Centre was opened to the Public from

Tuesday October 6, 2020 to Tuesday October 13, 2020 with the exception of Sunday, October 11, 2020.

3.5 Lists setting out the names of persons who filed claims were prepared daily and made available for inspection by members of the public; a total of ninety-three (93) claims were entered in the Register.

3.6 No objections were filed.

4. **ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

4.1 The By-Election of Wednesday November 11, 2020 was conducted by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act and Section 42 (1) of the Constitution of Barbados which states: - "The election of members to the House of Assembly shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the Commission". Until November 1, 2020, the members of the Commission were:-

Mr. John H. Haynes, BSM, JP	-	Chairman
Mr. Leslie Haynes, Q.C.	-	Deputy Chairman
Ms. Kim Thompson	-	Member
Mr. Brian Barrow, BA, LLB, LLM	-	Member
Mrs. Dianna Greenidge, BSS, LLB	-	Member

4.2 With effect from November 2, 2020 the members of the Commission were:

Mr. Leslie Haynes, Q.C.	-	Chairman
Mr. Hal Gollop, Q.C.	-	Deputy Chairman
Ms. Kim Thompson	-	Member
Mr. Ramon Alleyne, Q.C.	-	Member
Mr. Corey Greenidge, Attorney-at-Law	-	Member

4.3 The Commission, in accordance with Section 30 (1) of the Act appointed Mrs. Angela Taylor, the Supervisor of Elections and the Governor General, in accordance

with Section 30 (2) of the Act, appointed Mr. Ian Browne, the Deputy Supervisor of Elections.

- 4.4 In accordance with Section 31 of the Act, the Commission appointed Mr. Winston Estwick as the Returning Officer and in accordance with Section 32(1), appointed Mrs. Karan Callender as the Election Clerk.
- 4.5 The Wednesday November 11, 2020 By-Election was the first election conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a consequence, the number of election workers deployed were significantly high, as the number of polling stations were increased to reduce the number of electors presenting at each station. Additionally, a number of persons were deployed to provide temperature checks, for hand sanitizing and sanitizing the voting booths and other areas of the polling stations after each elector and for ensuring that persons kept their mask on and maintained the required physical distance at the polling station.
- 4.6 A total of one hundred and seventy nine (179) Election Officers were engaged in the conduct of the elections, in the following categories: -

Category	Number
Returning Officer	1
Election Clerk	1
Presiding Officers	26
Poll Clerks	72
Poll Clerks – COVID-19 Duties	50
Counting Assistants	29
Total	179

5. TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICERS

Training for the Returning Officer and Election Clerk was conducted on Friday October 23 and training for Counting Assistants on Monday November 9, 2020, at the Electoral Department's Office. The training for Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks was conducted on Monday October 19 and Monday November 2, 2020; the training

for COVID-19 workers was conducted Tuesday October 27 and Tuesday November 3 2020; and the training of the Candidates' Agents was conducted on Thursday October 22, 2020 at the St. George Secondary School. The training of the Police Officers was conducted on Thursday October 15 and 22, 2020, at the Oistins Police Station.

6. THE CANDIDATES

- 6.1 On Nomination Day, Monday October 26, 2020 six (6) persons were duly nominated to contest the seat in the election as listed below:

United Progressive Party	-	Mr. Ambrose O'Brien Grosvenor
Bajan Free Party	-	Mr. Alex Philip Mitchell
Barbados Labour Party	-	Mrs. Toni Nicole Sherry-Ann Moore
Solutions Barbados	-	Mr. Grenville Walter Phillips
Democratic Labour Party	-	Mr. Floyd Lamonte Reifer
People's Party for Democracy and Development	-	Mr. David Emile Walrond

7. NOMINATION CENTRE, POLLING STATIONS AND COUNTING CENTRE

- 7.1 The Valley Resource Centre was established as the Nomination Centre and as the Special Polling Station for election officers.
- 7.2 In establishing Polling Stations, the nine (9) Polling Districts were divided into twenty-five (25) Polling Divisions and these were housed in six (6) government buildings and two (2) privately owned properties as listed below:

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING DIVISION	POLLING STATION
GE1	A-H	St. George Secondary School
GE1	I-Z	St. George Secondary School
GE2	A-D	St. George Primary School
GE2	E-L	St. George Primary School
GE2	M-Z	St. George Primary School
GF1	A-E	Valley Resource Centre
GF1	F-M	Valley Resource Centre
GF1	N-Z	Valley Resource Centre
GF2	A-C	Glebe Polyclinic

GF2	D-H	Glebe Polyclinic
GF2	I-R	Glebe Polyclinic
GF2	S-Z	Glebe Polyclinic
GG1	A-H	Taitt Hill New Testament Church of God
GG1	I-Z	Church of the Nazarene –Thorpe’s Cottage
GG2	A-D	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GG2	E-H	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GG2	I-P	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GG2	Q-Z	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GG3	A-H	St. Jude’s Primary School
GG3	I-Z	St. Jude’s Primary School
GH1	A-C	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GH1	D-L	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GH1	M-Z	Cuthbert Moore Primary School
GH2	A-G	James Bryan Sports Complex
GH2	H-Z	James Bryan Sports Complex

7.3 The St. George Secondary School was established as the Counting Centre.

8. PUBLIC RELATIONS

8.1 A document entitled “COVID-19 Protocol for the Conduct of Elections” was developed to guide implementation and management of a protocol to ensure the safe conduct of elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also used to enforce proper procedures to mitigate against the spread of the corona virus, as citizens exercise their democratic right to vote. The protocol was also used to ensure that the election events were safely completed within the timelines prescribed in the Representation of the People Act. Cap 12.

8.2 The protocol established for Election Day accounted for much of the Public Relations (PR) Programme, as Public Notices were published in the press and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were aired on radio and television frequently, to inform and remind the public of the protocols and safety measures which would be deployed.

In addition to the Public Notices in the print and electronic media informing the electors of the period for claims and objections and of the COVID-19 protocol, there were Notices and PSAs regarding:

- i. the prohibited use of electronic devices in polling stations
- ii. the election offences

- iii. the voting procedures
- iv. voting for persons with disabilities
- v. presenting identification on election day

Circulars were also sent to all electors informing them of the Polling District in which they were registered and the Polling Station at which they were registered to vote.

- 8.3 On Polling Day, there was a small Information Centre of Officers in the Electoral Department's Office in Warrens to provide any further information, which electors may have required.

9. REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

- 9.1 In accordance with Section 18 (3) of the Act, the Commission published a Register for Elections on Friday October 23, 2020, which comprised nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety seven (9,897) electors. It was made available to the political parties and the nominated candidates. It was also displayed for public inspection at the Public Library in Bridgetown, the Public Library in Glebe, St. George and the Electoral Department.

10. VOTING

10.1 VOTING BY ELECTION OFFICERS

- 10.1.1 Mr. Winston Estwick was appointed by the Commission as the Special Presiding Officer to supervise the voting of election officers on Wednesday November 4, 2020 at the Valley Resource Centre, Glebe, St. George where polling was conducted between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Forty-six (46) Election Officers voted on that day.
- 10.1.2 The ballot box containing the votes cast by Election Officers was transported by the Returning Officer, to the Electoral Department, where it was secured in the vault. The Returning Officer was accompanied by a Police Officer and the Candidates' Polling Agents. The ballot box remained under twenty-four-hour police watch until it was transported to the Counting Centre on the evening of Wednesday November 11, 2020.

10.2. VOTING BY FOREIGN SERVICE ELECTORS

10.2.1 Wednesday November 4, 2020 was also designated as Polling Day for the Foreign Service Electors.

10.2.2 Two (2) members of the official staff of the Embassy of Barbados to the People's Republic of China made application to be treated as a Foreign Service Elector. The Electoral and Boundaries Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 (1) of the Act, accordingly, appointed the Consul General as the Presiding Officer at the Embassy.

10.2.3 The ballots cast were not received from China before the close of the poll on November 11, 2020 and therefore could not be placed in the ballot box for counting, in accordance with Rule 50 (5) of the House of Assembly Election Rules.

10.3 VOTING BY OTHER ELECTORS

10.3.1 On Wednesday November 11, 2020, the day designated as Polling Day for all other registered electors, polling was conducted between 6.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m., at the designated stations in the constituency.

10.3.2 Nine thousand, eight hundred and forty nine (9,849) persons were registered to vote on Polling Day.

11. COUNTING OF VOTES AND PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

11.1 Three Transport Board buses with Police escorts were used to transport Presiding Officers with ballot boxes, other Election Officers and Polling Agents to the Counting Centre. Counting commenced at 8:15 pm, immediately after all Presiding Officers delivered the ballot boxes and election materials to the Returning Officer.

11.2 The Returning Officer made periodic reports to the media on the progress of the Count until the final tally was given and the winning candidate declared at 11:45 pm.

12. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Returning Officer reported that the Ballot Paper Accounts for the twenty-five Polling Stations were correct and that discipline at the Nomination, the Polling

Stations and at the Counting Centre was “Good”.

13. ELECTION EXPENSES

- 13.1 In accordance with Section 52 (1) of the Act, the Candidates/Election Agents filed a Statement of Election Expenses with the Supervisor of Elections within seven weeks of the declaration of the results of the election.
- 13.2 Candidates/Election Agents are allowed to incur expenses to a maximum of \$10.00 in respect of each person registered as a voter in the constituency which amounts to a maximum of \$98,970.00.
- 13.3 The following is a summary of the Candidates’ Election Expenses:

CANDIDATE	AMOUNT (\$)	DATE OF RECEIPT
Ambrose O’Brien Grosvenor	0.00	2020-12-29
Alex Philip Mitchell	1,725.00	2020-12-22
Toni Nicole Sherry-Ann Moore	84,949.47	2020-12-22
Grenville Walter Phillips	2,086.25	2020-12-29
Floyd Lamonte Reifer	64,173.00	2020-12-21
David Emile Walrond	5,575.00	2020-12-30

14. APPRECIATION

- 14.1 The Commission expresses sincere thanks to all who contributed to the successful completion of the Wednesday November 11, 2020 By-Election.
- 14.2 Special thanks are extended to the Commission’s legal counsel, Carrington and Sealy; the Government Printer and staff; the Chief Information Officer and staff, the Covid-19 Monitoring Unit, Officers of the Ministry of Education; the Commissioner and members of the Royal Barbados Police Force; the Management and staff of the Transport Board; the Government Electrical Engineer and staff; the Post Master General and staff; the Media; the owners of properties which were used as Polling Stations; the Election Officers and the staff of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission - Electoral Department.

15. STATISTICAL DATA

15.1

TABLE 1

NOVEMBER 11, 2020 BY-ELECTION IN ST. GEORGE NORTH SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST FOR THE POLITICAL PARTY

NAME OF CANDIDATE	POLITICAL PARTY	NO. OF VOTES	%AGE
Ambrose O'Brien Grosvenor	United Progressive Party	70	1.5
Alex Philip Mitchell	Bajan Free Party	10	0.2
Toni Nicole Sherry-Ann Moore	Barbados Labour Party	3,154	66.4
Grenville Walter Phillips	Solutions Barbados	95	2.0
Floyd Lamonte Reifer	Democratic Labour Party	1,327	27.9
David Emile Walrond	People's Party for Democracy and Development	80	1.7
TOTAL VALID VOTES CAST		4,736	99.7
Rejected Votes		12	0.3
TOTAL VOTES CAST		4,748	100

15.2

TABLE 2

THE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST BY CANDIDATE AND BY POLLING DISTRICT

POLLING DISTRICT	AMBROSE O'BRIEN GROS- VENOR	ALEX PHILIP MITCHELL	TONI NICOLE SHERRY -ANN MOORE	GRENVILLE WALTER PHILLIPS	FLOYD LAMONTE REIFER	DAVID EMILE WALROND	TOTAL	RE- JECTED VOTES
GE1	5	2	233	8	132	2	382	0
GE2	12	2	396	17	162	7	596	2
GF1	9	1	384	11	284	8	697	1
GF2	4	0	478	13	260	9	764	1
GG1	10	0	229	6	84	2	331	3
GG2	9	1	500	17	159	8	694	1
GG3	9	1	300	10	97	10	427	1
GH1	9	2	362	11	87	30	501	1
GH2	3	1	272	2	62	4	344	2
TOTAL	70	10	3154	95	1327	80	4736	12

15.3

TABLE 3**THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AND NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE WHO VOTED BY POLLING DISTRICT**

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AND NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE WHO VOTED							
POLLING DISTRICT	NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS			NUMBER OF ELECTORS WHO VOTED			%AGE WHO VOTED
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
GE1	349	358	707	175	207	382	54.0
GE2	587	642	1229	266	332	598	48.7
GF1	729	757	1486	309	389	698	47.0
GF2	758	835	1593	333	432	765	48.0
GG1	333	365	698	133	201	334	47.9
GG2	694	765	1459	296	399	695	47.6
GG3	387	470	857	173	255	428	49.9
GH1	510	564	1074	212	290	502	46.7
GH2	397	397	794	157	189	346	43.6
TOTAL	4744	5153	9897	2054	2694	4748	48.0

ANGELA TAYLOR
 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
 31 DECEMBER 2020