

*OFFICE OF THE*

*SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS*

*1993 REPORT*

## THE REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

The following is a a brief administrative report on the work of the office for the year 1993.

### MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THE 1990 GENERAL ELECTIONS

2. For most of 1993, one item - that of the destruction of the contents of the ballot boxes - remained to be acted upon subject to advice which had been requested.
  
3. Such advice was received on 12th October, 1993. The boxes were removed from the room where they were locked up for safe keeping, opened and the contents removed and placed in trash bags in the presence of a police inspector who was requested to be present for the occasion. The inspector also accompanied the Senior Executive Officer and the contents to the Coxheath dump site and witnessed their incineration. He was asked to sign a certificate signifying that he had witnessed the operations. The certificate is attached as Appendix I.

4. As in 1992, all funds for the running of this office were provided under Head 2, Deputy Governor, Subhead 1 Personal Emoluments, and Head 2:27 Election Expenses. They were administered by the Deputy Governor's Office.

ADMINISTRATION

5. A skeleton staff of one (Senior Executive Officer) continued to man the office during the year, as in 1991 and 1992. A substitute was provided by the Personnel Division during the absence of the Senior Executive Officer on vacation leave. The Senior Executive Officer continued to fill her day by assisting the Companies Registry and the Registry of Births and Deaths. However, the office was slightly more active in 1993 than in previous years as several persons called or visited to seek information.

6. The Supervisor of Elections continued the once or twice weekly visits to the office. More often visits were made when necessary. Any additional communication with the office as well as with members of the public was by telephone. As in previous years, the Supervisor drafted all material for typing at home and brought them to the office for typing.

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

7. Thirty-three persons were registered as voters in 1993, representing an increase of six from 1992. All districts were represented with the largest number coming from the 9th District. (See Appendix II).

8. Deletions from the register continued to produce a negative effect on the gains in registration. Sixty-seven names were deleted on account of the death of the voters. In addition, two registered voters remained missing at sea and there were six double registrations. The largest numbers of deletions were from the 4th and 6th districts. The total number removed was 75. (See Appendices III & IV). These deletions are, of course, being done on the computer only, as a cleaning up act in preparation for the next general election. The certified list of voters would show the same names and numbers as were published in 1990.

9. Requests were received from a small number of registered voters who have changed their addresses since the Certified List was published in 1990. The Election Ordinance provides for changes to be made only during the revision of the list. Advice is being sought as to whether these requests may be entertained.

10. The Supervisor of Elections made a trip to St. Thomas

on 8th March to meet with her counterpart there and to discuss some matters of mutual interest. A report of that visit was prepared and submitted to the Deputy Governor on 23rd April, 1993. However, a copy is attached to this Report as Appendix V. A copy of the 1990 Certified List has since been sent to Mrs. Todman.

#### PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

11. Two GIS interviews were done during the year, each of which was re-broadcast once. The statutory requirement under section 3A (1)(c) was met four times during the year by publishing a notice in the Gazette inviting qualified persons to register. At each publication in the Gazette, a shorter notice was forwarded to the Chief Minister's Office with a request for its publication in both newspapers as well as on radio.

12. Copies of a poster which was prepared in 1992 and displayed at various points in the Territory, was again displayed in an effort to keep before the public the need for qualified persons to get registered.

#### ELECTIONS ACT

13. During the year, the Supervisor was invited to meet with the Executive Council for the purpose of discussing the

recommendations made in the 1990 Elections Report for improvements to the electoral system. All the recommendations were considered and the Attorney General's Chambers were to proceed with the drafting of those amendments agreed upon.

14. During the Constitutional Review which took place during the months of November to early December 1993, many persons who testified to the Commission concerning the Constitution, also spoke on certain aspects of the Election Act. A favourite hobby horse was proxy-voting which they thought should be scrapped. Some persons suggested replacing proxy-voting with absentee voting.

Supervisor of Elections

1994

APPENDIX I

November 5, 1993

I, Kendrickson Shepherd, Sergeant, hereby certify that I was present at the Office of the Supervisor of Elections on Friday, 5th November, 1993 and witnessed the removal of the Ballot Boxes of the 1990 General Elections from the storeroom, the emptying of the contents of the boxes into trash bags, the removal of the contents to the dump site at Coxheath and the burning of the same, at the dumpsite.

*Kendrickson Shepherd Sgt.*  
Kendrickson Shepherd



APPENDIX II

Voter Registration 1993

First District	1
Second District	3
Third District	6
Fourth District	3
Fifth District	3
Sixth District	4
Seventh District	4
Eighth District	1
Ninth District	8
	—
Total	33
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APPENDIX III

Deletions on Account of Death of Voters

First District	6
Second District	8
Third District	6
Fourth District	13
Fifth District	8
Sixth District	12
Seventh District	4
Eighth District	5
Ninth District	5
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Total	67
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APPENDIX IV

Double Registration 1993

First District	0
Second District	1
Third District	2
Fourth District	3
Fifth District	0
Sixth District	0
Seventh District	0
Eighth District	0
Ninth District	0
	<hr/>
Total	6
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Missing at Sea

Sixth District	2
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APPENDIX V

REPORT ON MEETING WITH THE SUPERVISOR  
OF ELECTIONS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

After many attempts to reach Mrs. Henrietta Todman, Supervisor of Elections, USVI by telephone from my office as well as from my home telephone, I finally established contact through one of my relatives in St. Thomas and found that I had been using the wrong telephone number-- an old one.

I met with Mrs. Todman at her office on Monday, 8th March, 1993. She was happy to meet with me and expressed concern that there was no contact between the two offices not even on Friendship Day. She said that many years ago she had sent an officer to the BVI to enquire into possibility of ascertaining the names of registered voters of the USVI who were also registered and voting in the BVI, but without success: she was told that such an investigation was a matter for Washington.

I explained to Mrs. Todman that the BVI accepts dual nationality and would see no problem if one of our registered voters also voted in the USVI.

The questions I wished to raise with Mrs. Todman were as follows:

- 1) what was her experience with continuous voter registration?
- 2) were there any programmes for voter education?
- 3) how did her "at large" voting system work?

and

- 4) what provisions were in place for voting by absent or disabled voters?

The USVI has a very comprehensive system of voter registration. There is a card index with the names and all pertinent information on each registered voter on his/her individual card. In addition there is a cross reference file and a card bearing the voters photograph is issued to each registered voter.

A registered voter is required to vote in at least one election. If he fail to vote in two consecutive elections his rights are cancelled and he must re-register.

It is easy to keep track of a voter's voting actions as, unlike the BVI, there is only one "district". And a voter is not allowed to vote more than once. He may, however, vote at any polling station so long as he only votes once.

As far as continuous voter registration is concerned, the office of the Supervisor of Elections is open each week-day for registration during the morning hours. Registration is slow, however, except when an election draws near. On the day of my visit (which took place at 12:30 p.m.) there were two (2) registrations during that morning.

Voter education is not the responsibility of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections. It is carried out by the Election Board who conduct meetings in different parts of the Territory from time to time. Those meetings help to motivate members of the public to apply for registration.

The At Large System allows for two "at-large" candidates, one from each party. The names of all

candidates (including the at-large) for each party are placed on the ballot. A voter votes for the candidates of his choice which may include one of the at-large ones.

The election system utilizes absentee ballots to enable voters who are absent to participate in the election process. Such voters must, of course, have been absent for not more than 90 days.

It was interesting to note that voter registration - my chief concern - was proportionately no better in the USVI which has a much larger population, than it is in this Territory.

Eugenie Todman-Smith  
Supervisor of Elections  
23rd April, 1993