

Dear Quogue Residents,

As of Friday morning, some battleground states are still counting, the President is litigating and pretty much everyone with a microphone is talking, but the chances are pretty good that Joe Biden will be moving into the White House next January 20. High drama between now and then is highly likely.

Voting was close in Quogue too. My informant from the Quogue Firehouse about Tuesday's voting there discloses that Biden apparently narrowly edged out Trump on the machine count, 386 to 343. Those figures do not include residents who voted early elsewhere, mailed in absentee ballots or were put on the "inactive voter" list because a postcard sent by the Board of Elections last winter was not forwarded to them at a winter address. (The Post Office is not permitted to forward that mail and must return it to the Board of Elections, I understand. Those people voted on a separate paper ballot that could not be run through the machine.) I will try to get more complete figures from the Quogue polling place (which also has some voters from East Quogue in non-Village elections) later on.

Proposition 1, proposing longer terms for Suffolk County legislators, looks like it is headed for defeat, and Proposition 2, allowing shoring up the Suffolk County budget from amounts borrowed from a dedicated sewer fund is leading by more than 7% before counting absentee ballots, of which there are many.

I am sure that nearly everyone has learned by now that the quarantine rules applicable to travelers from different states were modified by Governor Cuomo. The simple version is that the 40 (or so) jurisdiction list is now gone. Someone who travels to New York from any state that is not contiguous to New York or from most other countries can test out of the 14-day quarantine requirement by having a negative test within three days of leaving the other jurisdiction, quarantining for three days and having another negative test on the fourth day after arriving in New York. There are other rules applicable to visits to other jurisdictions of less than 24 hours and to "essential workers." The longer, more complicated guidance can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.

Some residents have asked about a coronavirus outbreak that Steve Bellone announced on Wednesday had occurred at the Southampton early voting site. I spoke to the County on Thursday and was advised that this outbreak occurred last week and stemmed initially from a single poll worker who tested positive. The Suffolk County Department of Health was on it right away and did the necessary contact tracing. It is unlikely that people who just voted there were infected because of the social distancing and mask protocols that were followed and the limited contact. According to the Department of Health, voters at the site between October 26 and October 28 should just self-monitor and, if they experience covid-19 symptoms, get a test. Chances are good that they would have symptoms by now if they are going to get them.

Everyone is aware of the large increases in coronavirus cases nationally. While that does not appear to have hit New York nearly as heavily as many other states, there have been some general upticks in the rates of positivity in New York and Suffolk County. I am not aware of any outbreaks in Quogue, but nevertheless it is especially important to continue to avoid gatherings whenever possible, wear masks, maintain a social distance and wash our hands frequently. Let's keep it that way.

Leaves are currently being picked up by the Highway Department. Leaves must be on the shoulder of the street by December 15th in order to be picked up. Do not pile leaves around fire hydrants or utility equipment. **Do not use plastic bags.** They will not be picked up, and you will have to remove them. **No brush, such as twigs and branches, or lawn cuttings will be taken away, and mixing this debris with leaves will result in the leaves not being removed.** Brush with branches up to 3" in diameter may be taken to the Westhampton recycling facility free of charge from November 15 through December 31. In addition to the foregoing, property owners and landscapers who take leaves (only) from a Quogue property may make arrangements with the Quogue Highway

Department to dump them at the highway yard. That will avoid having piles in front of your property waiting to be picked up and blowing back onto your lawn.

Enjoy the great November weather!

Peter Sartorius
Mayor