

Override Results Update

A couple weeks back I reported unofficial results regarding the override vote and at that time indicated I would provide an update once more information was available. My goal in this article is to offer that bit of additional information, which will help the community to better understand how the vote played out in final form and at the precinct level.

The final results indicate that the override passed by a margin of 54.68% (yes) to 45.32% (no). 42% of registered voters voted in this election as compared to 38% in 2009. We attribute the increase to a growing number of early voters across the District over the past four years. 64% of Wickenburg voters voted yes in this election, while 62% did so in 2009. The override committee, led by Carolyn McDonald, did a fine job and likely were responsible for the increased number of “yes” votes between 2009 and 2013.

We found that 37.7% of Festival precinct voters voted yes in this election, while only 11.5% did so in 2009. This represents a three-fold increase and we believe the efforts of the Festival override committee made the difference over the 2009 vote. The group went door to door to discuss the override, put up signs and spent a number of hours educating Festival residents on this issue. In this election, 69.5% of all ballots cast came from Wickenburg and 30.5% were from Festival (a small number came from the Surprise region of WUSD). In 2009, 79% came from Wickenburg and 21% from Festival. This represents a 9.5% increase in total vote coming from Festival in 2013 as compared to 2009. Clearly we must continue to communicate the importance of the override for our schools down in the Festival area as without a 50% margin in the next election the measure could fail.

A review of this information provides much for us to think about as we move forward. It will be our goal to continue to educate our communities (Wickenburg and Festival) regarding school district operations and to be open to ongoing discussion regarding our strengths and weaknesses. We are blessed to have a very supportive school district and do realize that we need to be stewards of each child’s development and education.