

OFFICE OF THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER  
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT

FW Plebiscite  
June 16, 1975 18  
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PLEBISCITE RULES AND REGULATIONS - NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PLEBISCITE

Tuesday, June 17, 1975

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Plebiscite Commissioner for the Northern Mariana Islands Plebiscite, the following rules and regulations for the conduct of the Plebiscite (to be held Tuesday, June 17, 1975) are hereby promulgated per Section 2, Secretarial No. 2973 - the Department of the Interior:

Section 1. All qualified electors registered with the Office of the Plebiscite Commissioner shall be allowed to vote.

Section 2. There shall be 17 Plebiscite precincts in the Mariana Islands District and the following shall serve as polling places:

- ✓ (1) Chalan Kanoa, District 1 - Meeting Hall
- ✓ (2) Chalan Kanoa, District 2 - Municipal Library Building
- ✓ (3) Chalan Kanoa, District 3 - Chalan Kanoa Elementary School
- ✓ (4) Chalan Kanoa, District 4 - Round House
- ✓ (5) Susupe - Meeting Hall
- ✓ (6) San Antonio - Meeting Hall
- ✓ (7) San Jose - San Jose Church
- ✓ (8) Tanapag - Meeting Hall
- ✓ (9) San Roque - Elementary School
- ✓ (10) San Vicente - Round House
- ✓ (11) Garapan - Elementary School
- (12) Rota - Court House
- (13) Tinian - Municipal Hall
- (14) Alamagan - Residence of Saipan Municipal Council Representative
- (15) Pagan - Residence of Saipan Municipal Council Representative
- (16) Agrihan - Residence of Saipan Municipal Council Representative
- (17) Civic Center - Distad Conference Room (This polling place shall be for the convenience of Rota and Tinian voters who happen to be on Saipan on Tuesday, June 17, 1975. Voting here will be done by utilizing absentee voting procedures.)

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- Section 3. The polls shall be opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.
- Section 4. A guard-rail, rope or other barricade shall be constructed to surround the polling place and only those persons who are receiving, preparing or depositing their ballots, or authorized staff of the Plebiscite Commissioner or any other persons authorized by law to be present, shall be permitted within the barricade.
- Section 5. Every polling place shall be attended by at least two authorized poll workers (or their alternates), two authorized judges (or their alternates), and only other authorized staff of the Plebiscite Commissioner or other persons authorized to be present.
- Section 6. A voter shall identify himself by stating his name in full and be recognized; his name shall be located on the official register and prior to receiving a ballot he shall sign his name on the official register after his name. A voter should be prepared to provide further identification if required. (See Note A\*)
- Section 7. On receiving his ballot, the voter shall forthwith and without leaving the enclosed area retire alone to one of the spaces, booths or tables provided to prepare his ballot. Booths shall not be occupied by more than one person at a time.
- Section 8. The voter shall place a cross (X) or a checkmark (✓) in only one of the voting squares. The voter shall then fold his ballot in such a manner as to not display his vote and shall then deposit his ballot in the ballot box.
- Section 9. When it appears in the registry book that a voter has declared under oath when he registered:
- (a) That he cannot read or write, or
  - (b) That by reason of physical disability he is unable to mark his ballot, or
- when a voter declares under oath, administered by any member of the election committee at the time he appears at the polling place to vote, that he is then unable to mark his ballot because of physical disability, he shall receive the assistance of not less than two members of the election committee, one from each of the two groups supporting or opposing the Covenant.

Section 10. Any voter who spoils a ballot may return it to the election judges and receive another in its place - one at a time; not to exceed three in all. The election judges shall immediately cancel all the spoiled ballots by drawing a cross on the face in ink or indelible pencil. These spoiled ballots and those ballots not distributed to voters shall be returned to the Plebiscite Commissioner together with all other official materials.

Section 11. If a voter does not cast a ballot delivered to him, he shall, before leaving the polling place, deliver it to the election judges who shall immediately cancel it and retain it as a spoiled ballot. Officials of the election board shall account for all ballots delivered to them by returning all unused ballots and all spoiled ballots.

Section 12. No person shall ask another person at the polling place how he intends to vote - unless otherwise provided by the regulations.

Section 13. Immediately upon the closing of the polls and before any ballot is taken from any of the ballot boxes, the election officials of each precinct shall seal, in the presence of all authorized persons, all unused ballots and all spoiled ballots in separate envelopes. All election officials of the precinct shall write their names thereon. The locked ballot boxes and all other election materials shall be delivered directly to the Plebiscite Commissioner for counting and tabulation.

Section 14. The election officials of each precinct shall be responsible for delivering immediately and directly to the Plebiscite Commissioner at the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands High Court Chambers all ballot boxes, unused and spoiled ballots, and any other official materials. These will be appropriately identified and receipt by the Plebiscite Commissioner will be provided.

Section 15. Any registered voter qualified to vote by the official plebiscite register shall be entitled and enabled to vote by absentee ballot if:

(a) He is confined to his home or hospital by reason of such illness or physical disability as will prevent him from attending the polls.

(b) Is prevented from voting by reason of absence from the election precinct in which he is registered.

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Absentee ballot request forms, absentee ballots and plain white envelopes will be provided for this purpose.

Section 16. The poll officials shall, during the election day and during hours in which the polls are required by law to be open, cause an absentee ballot and appropriate other forms and documents to be delivered to such individuals; provided, however, that the ballots shall be marked by the individual in the presence of not less than two officials representing both groups. When it appears that the individual who is requesting an absentee ballot because of such illness or physical disability cannot mark the ballot, the two poll officials shall provide assistance.

Section 17. The qualified registered voter confined to his home or the hospital will:

- (1) Fill out and sign an absentee ballot request form; and
- (2) Execute an absentee ballot; and
- (3) Fold and place absentee ballot in the plain white envelope, seal it and return it to the election officials.

The election officials will attach the absentee ballot request form to the sealed white envelope and place both of these documents (still attached) in the ballot box (upon returning to the polling place). After the election is over and when the ballot box is officially opened by the Plebiscite Commissioner, these absentee ballots will be held and eventually counted and tabulated with all other absentee ballots.

Section 18. All absentee ballots must reach the Plebiscite Commissioner and/or an official polling place not later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 17, 1975.

Given under my Hand this 16 day of June, 1975.

*Erwin D. Canham*

Erwin D. Canham  
Plebiscite Commissioner

\*Note A. A voter will also be required to dip his (or her) index finger, left hand, in a marking dye.

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