

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Pearl B. Larsen Election Judge Says Election Running Smoothly

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The General Election has been moving along without much incident across the territory, according to Deputy Police Sergeant Arthur S. Hector, Sr. The *VI Consortium* caught up with the Sergeant at Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School earlier today, as he and a team of two officers oversaw the smooth flow of the voting process, under the direction of the election judge.

Hector revealed that two police officers are assigned to each polling site across the territory, with two shifts per site occurring within the course of the day. He also confirmed that there were no major incidents affecting the election process, only noting a minor incident of a voter arriving at one of the polling stations an hour before it was opened.

Later, this reporter had a chance to speak with Ms. Masserae Webster, Election Judge at the Pearl B. Larsen School, who shared important information concerning the ongoing process.

About 500 people had voted at Pearl B. Larsen by 11:18 a.m., and Webster said the flow of traffic was strong in the morning, as people who made their way to work first stopped to vote. The traffic had slowed just before noon, but Webster said it would pick back up later at the end of the work day.

In relation to write-in and sticker ballots, Webster said she observed some voters peeling off stickers to place on their ballots, but could not confirm how many persons had done so.

The judge also confirmed that ballots without write-in, sticker or Straight Party votes will be tabulated at the respective polling places using the DS200 machine. Those results will then be uploaded to a jump drive and transported to the Elections Systems Office, along with the ballots that will be hand-counted by the Board of Elections. Results uploaded to jump drives from the respective polling sites will be made available to the public this evening, Webster said.

Webster pointed out that about 2,220 people are allocated to the Pearl B. Larsen Elementary school to vote.