

SSHD & WSHD
ADVISORY VOTE to the CITY COUNCIL
Anticipated Questions

Are all property owners required to sign the ballot return envelope?

No, only one owner is required to sign. Preferably, please have one of the owners listed on the ballot return, sign the envelope. This will assist in validating the signature, and/or include a phone number should there be any questions regarding the signature on the return envelope.

Are ballots from the WSHD and SSHD combined into one decision/advisory vote?

No. The two district's advisory vote will not be combined and each will be counted separately. The WSHD and SSHD may each have different results for their "Advisory Vote to the City Council".

When and who will count the ballots?

April 25th - One member from the City Council and one member from the DHPC will review ballot envelopes to determine if there are any discrepancies with the outside white return envelopes. The DHPC then will attempt to contact those property owners to verify their return envelope and eliminate the discrepancy(s).

May 2nd - One member from the City Council and two members from the DHPC will review remaining return envelopes for discrepancies, open the envelopes verified, and count the ballots.

The public is welcome to watch the vote count, 6 pm at City Hall on Monday, 5/2/16.

Why isn't the Columbia County Office of Records and Elections counting the ballots?

Sharon Richter, Auditor for Columbia County was contacted about counting the ballots on behalf of the City and DHPC. Sharon indicated that her staff is busy preparing for the Primary and Federal Elections this year and does not have the staff available to oversee the "Advisory Vote to the City Council".

How will the owners be notified of the Advisory Vote results?

If there is a 2nd ballot, property owners will receive the results of Ballot 1 along with the 2nd ballot.

The results of the 1st and 2nd ballot will be:

- Posted on the City Hall bulletin board,
- Emailed to those signed up to receive emails regarding the Historic Preservation Policy & Code Project 2016 (HPP16),
- Sent as press release to: Waitsburg Times, Dayton Chronical and WWUB,
- Posted on <https://www.ezview.wa.gov>,
and listed as **Dayton - Historic Preservation Code and Process Project 2016**

The EZView website can be accessed from the City website:

<http://www.daytonwa.com/inside-city-hall/boards-commissions/dhpc/current-projects>

Why a second ballot? Why not just two choices on one ballot?

The second ballot provides an opportunity for those who did not vote for the winner of the 1st ballot to consider which of the top two choices they prefer. The DHPC did not want to disenfranchise owners who feel strongly about their position on this matter.

There were less than 50 percent of property owners who returned their survey in November/December of 2015. The surveys however showed support for all three of the choices presented on the 1st Ballot.

How many ballots were sent? How many are needed to validate the advisory vote, etc?

SSHHD

78 Total # of properties/ballots

40 Ballots to validate vote - (51% equals 39.78 ballots)

**Ballots for a Super Majority - (75% equals 59 ballots if all ballots are received &
30 ballots if only 40 ballots are received)**

Note: 3 mailed ballots were returned because the owners did not update their Columbia County Assessor property information. The DHPC subsequently was able to locate the owners and forward the ballots.

WSHD

14 Total # of properties/ballots

8 Ballots to validate vote - (51% equals 7.14 ballots)

**Ballots for Super Majority - (75% equals 11 ballots if all ballots are received &
6 ballots if only 8 ballots are received)**

What if 51% of the ballots are not returned?

If less than 51% of the ballots are returned on the 1st ballot, ballots will be physically counted and the results will be made public. A 2nd run-off ballot would not be presented to district property owners.

With less than a 51% return, it will be assumed that that the majority of property owners do not want change regarding this ballot topic.

Note: Whether there is a validated ballot return or not, the ballot count will be presented to the City Council. There will be policy and code change recommendations as part of the Historic Preservation Project 2016 (HPP 2016) which will ultimately be presented to the City Council for their consideration. See “*project scope*” posted on the Dayton Historic Preservation Project 2016 page at <https://www.ezview.wa.gov> .