



Yuma County voters OK extending jail tax

[BY RICHARD ROMERO - SUN STAFF WRITER](#)

2011-05-20 17:14:08

The Yuma County Jail District Tax was extended another 20 years starting January 2016.

According to the Yuma County election summary report, the tax passed with 61 percent "yes" votes; 39 percent voted against it.

When questioned on the number of "no" votes on an issue that is meant to help the county, County Administrator Robert Pickels responded that the numbers were expected.

"It's not atypical at all for any type of a tax issue to have a certain segment of the voting population that just doesn't like those kind of issues. And they are going to very typically vote against them and we expect that," Pickels said.

There were a total of 14,335 votes cast for the special election.

"Everything is counted so now the only thing left for us to do is ask the Yuma County Board of Supervisors to canvas the election, which is their official certification of the numbers," Pickels said.

The canvassing will occur June 6, making the vote official, Pickels said.

Pickels said after the canvassing of the election, the county will take a look at options for restructuring the existing debt within the jail district.

Currently, Pickels said, the existing debt is around \$8.5 million in actual bond indebtedness.

"Once we accomplish that, it will allow us to get back to where we need to be with operational funds and give ourselves the ability to provide that service level that we were trying to avoid losing," Pickels said.

The Jail District and tax was first voted into creation in 1995 and provides the necessary funding for the maintenance, construction and operation of jail facilities in Yuma County.