

The Morning News

Local News for Northwest Arkansas

Commission Discards Two Ballots

*By Dug Begley
The Morning News*

FAYETTEVILLE -- The results of Fayetteville's road impact fee election remain a one-vote margin for now.

Friday morning, the Washington County Election Commission rejected two provisional ballots submitted during Tuesday's election, keeping the results 2,015 for the fee, 2,014 against.

Letters will be sent to the two voters telling them they can appeal the decision at a meeting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. One of the ballots was filed by a voter not registered to vote in Fayetteville, Washington County Clerk Karen Combs Pritchard said. The other voter was eligible to vote, but cast the provisional ballot at the wrong polling place.

"The law is the law, and we have to go by that," said election commission Chairman John Logan Burrow.

The April 10 election will not be certified by the commission until Friday. Burrow said the election commission is awaiting 23 overseas absentee ballots that have until Friday to arrive.

If the commission upholds the totals, new development in Fayetteville will pay a fee to fund road improvements around the city. The fee will be based on the type of building erected, and paid when the city issues a certificate of occupancy. The road impact fee will apply to any building permits issued after June 30, according to the city ordinance.