

Attachment 3 – Substantial Changes to the Elections Bylaw

Policy changes due to Bill 20

1.) The use of alternative voting equipment now prohibited

The City's election policies must reflect a hand ballot count, and current sections of the current bylaw are repealed in compliance with the Act section 84.

New sections of Elections Bylaw reflecting a Hand Count

- Section 58 – Issuance of Ballot
- Section 14 – 17 Permanent Electors Register
- Section 59 – Elector Voting Procedure
- Section 64 – 66 Spoiled and Rejected Ballots
- Section 67- After Voting
- Part 6 – Counting of Ballots
- Section 74 – 77 Counting Centre
- Section 78 – Recount
- Section 79 – 80 Mandatory Recount

Non-relevant sections of current Elections Procedure Bylaw to be repealed

- Section 15 – Voting Machines
 - o Definitions
 - o Automated Voting System
 - o Pre-Vote Procedure
 - o Voting Procedure
 - o Post Vote Procedure
 - o Counting Procedure

2.) The City's identification requirements in the current Elections Procedure Bylaw must be repealed in compliance with the Act section 53.01.

This is to reflect the new requirement for the City to use a Permanent List of Electors.

Non-relevant sections of current Elections Procedure Bylaw to be repealed

- Section 10 – Identification Requirements

New Change to Elections Bylaw

Change in Voting Hours Recommendation:

Change the opening of the voting stations on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Rationale:

During the municipal general election in 2021, voting stations opened at 6:30 a.m. This meant that on election day, election workers were arriving at 5:00 a.m. to set up the voting station.

Data collected from each of the four voting stations that were operational on election day indicated from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. there were a total of 563 voters from all four voting stations which accounted for 4.7% of total voters who voted in the 2021 election.

For Council consideration, the general election for this vote will require longer working hours of election workers at the close of vote due to a ballot hand count. A later opening time of the voting station will assist in mitigating against worker fatigue.

Additionally, it was made known to Airdrie by the City of Calgary, who administers the Calgary Catholic School District trustee ballot in Airdrie, that a 6:30 a.m. start time on election day is significant resource burden for their election workers who must operate their vote at same time as the Airdrie elections and are required to keep the same hours of voting.

For the upcoming election, Administration will be strategically increasing the number of voting hours and places to vote so that the allocation of resources will be better utilized. Overall, the number of total voting hours for the next election will increase compared to the 2021 election even if voting station start times on election day are shifted from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.