Vote on a Question

General Considerations

February 1, 2021
Strategic Council Meeting

Vote on a Question

- **November 2020** – Council's direction re: TT2020-1036

- **December 2020** – Returning Officer requested submission of issues or possible questions

- **January 2020** –
  - Referral of questions to responsive Business Units
  - Framework for development of questions distributed

Vote on a Question

- Vote on a question "on any matter over which the municipality has jurisdiction".

- Outcome is not binding on Council.

- A question must be simple, clear, direct and concise.

- Electors should be able to understand the context of a question (e.g., timing, scope and application).

Vote ☒
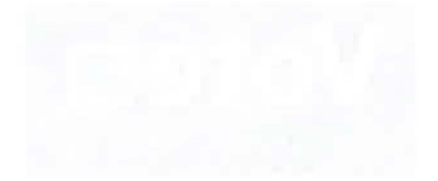Elections Calgary

Vote on a Question

- A question must be capable of being answered with a "yes" or "no," or "for" or "against". Electors may choose not to respond to a question.

- A question should be as neutral and impartial as possible, and not suggest a 'correct' or desired outcome.

- Electors should be informed about what the vote outcome will mean.

Vote on a Question

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- Elector is, as of Election Day (2021 October 18) a person who is:
    - At least 18 years old;
    - A Canadian Citizen; and
    - A resident of the city of Calgary.

- Returning Officer's role is to impartially administer a vote on questions submitted by Council.

- Once Council submits a question, Administration plays a limited role, providing factual information.

Vote on a Question

- More efficient to conduct vote of the electors at the same time as a General Election

- $50,000 cost, includes:
  - Potentially larger ballot.
  - Vote tabulator programming and testing support.

Vote on a Question

- Complex election for voters:
  - Additional matters anticipated
    - Senate
    - Provincial Referendum questions
  - COVID impacts
  - Additional time to consider choices
  - Additional time in voting station

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Vote on a Question

- To provide for the submission of a question for a vote of the electors, Council would make a resolution.

- Question(s) must be received by the Returning Officer no later than the end of Q2, 2021.