

## Fiscal Framework Vote on a Question - Update

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### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for the Corporate Record.
2. Direct Attachment 2 remain confidential pursuant to Section 21 (Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, to be reviewed by 2021 December 31.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2021 MAY 13:

That Council:

1. Receive this report for the Corporate Record.
2. Direct Attachment 2 remain confidential pursuant to Section 21 (Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, to be reviewed by 2021 December 31.

### Opposition to Recommendations:

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Against: Councillor Farkas

### HIGHLIGHTS

At the February 1 Strategic Meeting of Council, Council provided direction to determine the language for a “vote on a question” (i.e. a plebiscite) on the fiscal framework in consultation with other Alberta municipalities. There does not appear to be interest in other municipalities to pursue such a question.

### DISCUSSION

The Municipal Government Act provides Council the authority to put a nonbinding question to the electors alongside a local election. In response to inquiries from Members of Council about posing a question on The City’s fiscal relationship with the province, Administration brought the report attached (Attachment 1) to the 2021 February 1 Strategic Meeting of Council. Council subsequently directed that the wording for such a question be determined in consultation with other municipalities.

Subsequent discussions with other municipalities have not exposed broader interest in placing such a question on the municipal ballot. Information about these discussions are included in Attachment 2 (confidential).

If Council wishes to proceed, four possible questions and associated risks were included in the February 1 report (Attachment 1).

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Alternatively, Council could wait to see if the Government of Alberta will deliver on its commitment to use the municipal elections to hold a referendum on the province's own fiscal relationship with the Government of Canada. Once that question is made public, Council could direct a question to parallel the provincial wording.

- For Elections Calgary to meet its statutory notice requirements in section 35(3) of the Local Authorities Election Act, a Council-directed question for a vote of the electors should be received by no later than 2021 Q2. This allows time to prepare statutory notices, including a complete summary of the question (i.e., effect of vote, cost, implementation information, etc.) and prepare tactics to inform voters and candidates. While the province may make its intentions and wording known prior to that date, it may not do so until the early fall [Elections Calgary is not similarly legislatively responsible for issuing a complete summary of the *provincial* question(s) or engage voters and candidates]. More information can be found in the report on General Considerations re Vote on a Question originally shared with the Strategic Meeting on February 1 (Attachment 3)

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

As per Council direction, other Alberta municipalities were consulted (see Attachment 2)

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Social, environmental and economic implications of a vote on a question on the fiscal framework are addressed in the February 1 report in Attachment 1.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

Service and Financial implications of a vote on a question on the fiscal framework are addressed in the February 1 report in Attachment 1.

### **RISK**

Associated risks are addressed in the February 1 report in Attachment 1.

If Council wishes to proceed with a question to the electors, an additional risk flagged in this report is associated with waiting for the wording of a provincial question before drafting The City's own question. If the province does not deliver that wording before the end of 2021 Q2, Elections Calgary may not be able to deliver on its legislative obligations to properly inform the public about the vote on a question.

Deputy City Manager's Office Report to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2021 May 13

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
IGA2021-0616  
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#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Report to Strategic Meeting of Council: Fiscal Framework – Vote on a Question
2. Consultations with other municipalities (Confidential)
3. Report to Strategic Meeting of Council: General Considerations re Vote on a Question

#### Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs	DCMO	Approve
Carla Male	CFOD	Inform
Kate Martin	City Clerks / Elections Calgary	Consult