

## **Fiscal Framework Vote on a Question - Update**

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee discuss putting the following question to voters during this fall's municipal election and make a recommendation to Council accordingly.

- "Should Calgary City Council advocate for a fair deal for Calgary Taxpayers from the Government of Alberta? Yes, or no?"

### **DISCUSSION**

In response to inquiries from a Member of Council, Administration brought a report called Fiscal Framework – Vote on a Question C2021-0175 to the February 2020 Strategic Meeting of Council on the possibility of holding a "Vote on the Question" (a plebiscite) on the fiscal framework in conjunction with the October municipal election.

At that meeting, Council directed Administration to develop a question in consultation with other municipalities and return to the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee. In May 2020, Administration shared with IGA Committee that there was not enough interest from other municipalities to respond to this direction. The report was called Fiscal Framework Vote on a Question – Update, IGA2021-0615.

The IGA Committee, and then Council, subsequently directed Administration to return to this meeting with a question based on the following: "Should The City advocate for a fair deal for cities?"

In the meantime, the Government of Alberta has formalized its own plans for a referendum on a "fair deal" for the province in Canada, also to be held alongside the municipal election. The provincial question is to be as follows:

- Should section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, Parliament and the government of Canada's commitment to the principle of making equalization payments, be removed from the Constitution?

This is not materially different from the question recommended by the Fair Deal Panel last year, worded as: "Do you support the removal of Section 36, which deals with the principle of equalization, from the Constitution Act, 1982?"

Based on direction from Council and the fact that there is no direct local analog to the federal equalization program called out in the provincial question, Administration is recommending that the IGA Committee discuss the following question and make a recommendation to Council on whether or not to proceed with a vote on a question this fall.

- Should Calgary City Council advocate for a fair deal for Calgary Taxpayers from the Government of Alberta?

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

- ☐ Public Engagement was undertaken
- ☒ Public Communication or Engagement was not required

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- ☐ Public/Stakeholders were informed
- ☐ Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social, Environmental and Economic Implications**

Social, Environmental and Economic Implications were considered in the report (C2021-0175) to the February 2021 Strategic Meeting of Council.

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

Service and Financial Implications were considered in the report (C2021-0175) to the February 2021 Strategic Meeting of Council.

### **RISK**

Associated risks were considered in the report (C2021-0175) to the February 2021 Strategic Meeting of Council.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

None

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs	Deputy City Manager's Office	Approve
Carla Male	Chief Financial Officer's Department	Inform