

**Returning Officer's Report to
Combined Meeting of Council
2021 June 21**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2021-0504
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Election-related Bylaw Amendments

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. Give three readings to the proposed Bylaw 51M2021, as set out in Attachment 1, to amend Bylaw 35M2018; and
2. Give three readings to the proposed Bylaw 52M2021, as set out in Attachment 2, to amend Bylaw 29M2007.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The report recommends amendments to the Election Bylaw (Bylaw 35M2018) to codify current procedures and reflect recent legislative changes and required administrative amendments.
- The report also recommends amendments to the Early Opening of Voting Stations for the Separate School Board Elections in Airdrie and Cochrane (Bylaw 29M2007) to provide for early opening of voting stations for separate school electors residing in Chestermere.
- What does it mean to Calgarians? Regular review of election-related bylaws ensures that voters and candidates can trust election procedures are current, legislatively compliant and accurate.
- Why does it matter? Current, legislatively compliant and accurate election procedures support transparency and public confidence in the Returning Officer's administration of the election.
- The Act permits Council to pass bylaws to provide authority and govern various aspects of an election.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A well-run city.

DISCUSSION

Election Bylaw (Bylaw 35M2018)

The Election Bylaw addresses a number of procedures required to administer a general election, by-election and vote on a question.

The Returning Officer recommends Election Bylaw amendments to capture current procedures and required administrative amendments. Attachment 3 is a table summarizing the recommended amendments. Attachment 4 is the current Election Bylaw (office consolidation), incorporating recommended amendments in track changes for ease of reference.

Early voting hours – City of Chestermere

A long-standing agreement between The City of Calgary and The Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District (CRCSSD) establishes Elections Calgary as the Returning Office for CRCSSD trustee elections. The CRCSSD's jurisdiction includes communities outside the

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political boundaries of The City of Calgary, including the municipalities of Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane. For convenience, Elections Calgary has historically co-located advance and Election Day voting stations and aligned voting hours for separate school electors with those offered by the municipalities of Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane. The Returning Officer for The City of Chestermere has informed Elections Calgary that on 2021 May 17, the Council of The City of Chestermere passed Bylaw #011-21, providing for voting stations to open at 8 a.m. on Election Day.

Section 46(2.1) of the Act provides that an elected authority that is responsible for the conduct of an election under an agreement may, by bylaw passed before 2021 June 30 provide that voting stations in an area that is subject to the agreement are to be open before 10 a.m. on Election Day. To permit separate school electors in The City of Chestermere the opportunity to vote in CRCSSD trustee elections at 8 a.m. on Election Day, an amendment to the existing early voting hours bylaw in place for the municipalities of Airdrie and Cochrane (Bylaw 29M2007) is required.

Prior to the 2018 Olympic vote of the electors, the Election Bylaw was amended to provide for voting stations to be open at 8 a.m. on Election Day in the city of Calgary.

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

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Returning Officer for The City of Chestermere and leadership of the CRCSSD were consulted on matters addressed in this report.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

Include actual figure

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RISK

A bylaw to permit separate school electors in The City of Chestermere the opportunity to vote in CRCSSD trustee elections at 8 a.m. on Election Day must be passed by 2021 June 30. If the bylaw is not passed by that date, separate school electors in The City of Chestermere will not be able to vote in CRCSSD trustee elections until 10 a.m. on Election Day, which will likely inconvenience voters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed wording for a bylaw 51M2021 to amend the Elections Bylaw 35M2018.
2. Proposed wording for a bylaw 52M2021 to amend Early Opening of Voting Stations for the Separate School Board Elections in The City of Airdrie, The City of Chestermere and Town of Cochrane Bylaw 29M2007.
3. Summary of recommended amendments to the Elections Bylaw 35M2018.
4. Track changes version of current Election Bylaw 35M2018 showing recommended amendments.

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Jill Floen, City Solicitor and General Counsel	Law	Inform