

Calgary

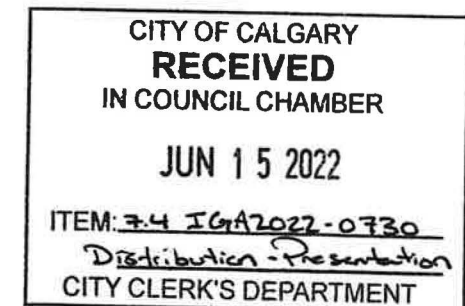


Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) Consultation

2022 June 15

ISC: Unrestricted

Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) Consultation IGA2022-0730





Recommendation

The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council request the Mayor make a formal submission to the Local Authorities Elections Act (LAEA) consultation based on the discussion at the 2022 June 15 Intergovernmental Affairs Committee



Overview

- Municipal Affairs is conducting consultation on specific aspects of the LAEA
- Election reform was identified as a Council priority
- Circulated to Council for feedback on Thursday June 2; Results compiled today to assist in today's discussion
- Due to Municipal Affairs on July 11
- Municipal Affairs may use feedback received from municipalities to inform further consultation on “local elections and councillor accountability” this summer



Process

- Walk through questions one by one
- ICS – lead the discussion, compile feedback
- Clerks – provide information and the Returning Officer’s perspective
- Law – legal questions arising
- Not consensus, but will seek a majority position



Enhanced Councillor Accountability

- 1. Are the eligibility criteria for an individual to be nominated as a municipal candidate adequate? * (reference Att 2, pg 1-2; Att 3, pg 6)**
 - a. If not, please provide your suggestions for improvement**

There was no clear position on this item, but some comments to consider:

- Adequate is hard to define
- Limiting who can run for office might infringe on someone's right to do so.



Enhanced Councillor Accountability

2. Are the criteria and process for disqualifying a councillor appropriate? (reference Att 2, pg 1-2)

a. If not, please provide your suggestions for improvement

- Some additional rigor in who can run may be helpful, however, it may be difficult to define what would constitute a disqualification. Disqualification could also be used as a political tool to prevent someone from running.



Protecting Voters

1. Should candidates, their scrutineers, or their official agent continue to have the opportunity to object to an individual who has shown up to vote?* (reference Att 2, pg 2; Att 3 pg 6)

- Yes. There needs to be mechanisms in place to ensure that voters are eligible to vote (such as ID) and a means to object to those who show up to vote but are not eligible.



Protecting Voters

2. Should candidates be able to request access to the list of electors? (reference Att 2, pg 2; Att 3 pg 7)

- An electors list is important tool in safeguarding the election. There should be additional measures in place to keep this information safe such as enhanced candidate eligibility to providing the Returning Officer with discretion on who can obtain this information.



Strengthening Democracy

1. Should elections conducted with electronic voting equipment be eligible for judicial recount, where the judge can order the votes be recounted by hand or run through the electronic tabulator again? (reference Att 2, pg 2; Att 3 pg 7)

- Yes, elections conducted with electronic voting equipment should be eligible by judicial recount with criteria in place to stipulate in what cases a recount should occur and the mechanism of how this should occur.



Strengthening Democracy

2. Should third parties advertising for or against an issue that is subject of a vote (e.g. municipal referendum question) be required to register?* (reference Att 2, pg 2; Att 3 pg 7)

- Yes, they should be required to register to bring more transparency and accountability into the election process.



Strengthening Democracy

3. Should third parties advertising any issues that have been raised by candidates in a municipal election be required to register?* (reference Att 2 pg 2; Att 3 pg 8)

- Yes, they should be required to register to bring more transparency and accountability into the election process.



Other

Do you have any additional comments or considerations on these topics?



What Questions Did We Hear?

- Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta have requested detailed engagement regarding a re-write to LAEA and detailed engagement on Code of Conduct



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