

Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) Consultation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2022 JUNE 15:

That Council:

1. Direct Administration to work with the Office of the Mayor to prepare summary notes from the discussion at the 2022 June 15 Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, to be used as the foundation of a formal submission to the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) consultation on behalf of Council, based on the discussion at the 2022 June 15 Intergovernmental Affairs Committee; and
2. Review any available summary notes at the 2022 July 5 Combined Meeting of Council.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Council has the opportunity to provide input into a Government of Alberta consultation regarding the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA).
- What does this mean to Calgarians? The input provided by municipalities in this consultation may form the basis for further public consultation on the LAEA and may result in amendments to the legislation.
- Why does this matter? Amendments to the LAEA help respond to the current needs of stakeholders in the election process, including candidates, returning officers and electors.
- Elections Calgary's Returning Officer of has prepared information about LAEA and other election related legislation for Council's information and consideration.
- This item is related to IGA2022-0767 Code of Conduct Consultation, also on the June 15 IGA agenda.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A well-run city
- Background and Previous Council Direction: Previous Council direction on LAEA did not address the issues contained within the Government of Alberta consultation.

DISCUSSION

The Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) establishes the framework for local authority (cities, towns, school boards, etc.) elections in the province. The Act is periodically amended, typically following a local election to ensure that it meets the needs of elected officials, municipal administrations, and public.

Municipal Affairs is now conducting a consultation on the LAEA. The recent 2021 election identified several issues including candidate eligibility, and privacy of voter information.

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In response, the Government of Alberta has provided a series of questions for Council's comment. Attachment 1 is a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Attachment 2 provides a discussion of the current state and the consultation questions under the following themes:

- 1) Enhanced Councillor Responsibility
- 2) Protecting Voters
- 3) Strengthening Democracy

Council's submission to Municipal Affairs is due on 2022 July 11.

The Returning Officer oversees Elections Calgary, which is a division of the [City's Clerks Office](#) responsible for independently and impartially administering elections. The Returning Officer has prepared additional information to assist Council in the engagement (Attachment 3), which includes:

- A summary of key legislation governing municipal elections in Calgary;
- Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in Calgary's municipal elections;
- A summary of Returning Officer's responses to the Government of Alberta's LAEA; and
- Elections Calgary's preparations for the 2025 General Election, including upcoming plans to engage with Council and school boards.

Council may wish to consider the information in Attachment 3 in developing its own submission.

It is important to note that Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy is facilitating a response to this engagement as part of its government relations function and takes no position with respect to the LAEA or other issues arising from how current or future members may be elected.

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

On 2022 June 2, Administration sent a package of engagement materials from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to Council, plus a worksheet to capture individual Councillors' responses to the Minister's questions. Administration will combine any responses received and present them for discussion at today's IGA committee.

The consultation is currently limited to Councillors / municipalities. The Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated that the results may be used to inform a broader public consultation local elections and councillor accountability later this summer. Councillors will also be able to provide individual responses at that time.

IMPLICATIONS

Social, Environmental, Economic

Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) Consultation

Amendments to the LAEA helps respond to the current needs of stakeholders in the election process, including candidates, returning officers and electors.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

RISK

If Council does not submit their responses to the consultations, their feedback cannot be considered in the future public consultations or in any subsequent legislative amendments.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, 2022 May 16
2. Local Elections and Councillor Accountability
3. Returning Officer Memorandum
4. **Proposed Letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs**
5. **Presentation**

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Deputy City Clerk Andrew Brouwer	City Clerks	Consult