



# Reinstating a Municipal Census

EC2024-1022  
2024 October 2

# Previous Council Direction

## 2024 May 14

### CPC2024-0213

Direct Administration to research and return to Council before the 2025 Mid-Cycle Budget program with recommendations (including budget and organizational accountability) to resurrect the municipal census program with the intention of conducting a Calgary biennial census in 2027 and thereafter.



# Recommendation

That Executive Committee recommend that Council direct Administration to:

1. Reinstate a biennial municipal census starting in 2027, based on the options analysis in Attachment 2, and;
2. Bring forward municipal census funding requirements for consideration in the 2027-2030 Service Plans and Budgets.

# Researching a Return of the Municipal Census

## Challenges

- Calgary is growing rapidly
- Five-year frequency for the federal Census of Population
- Relying on federal census creates gaps in data

## Opportunities

- Timely and high-quality data
- Civic services align with the needs of residents and businesses
- Planning for growth impacts on utility networks
- School board planning
- Providing social & recreational services
- Supporting service planning in communities across Calgary

## Administration supports reinstating a Municipal Census





# Options for a Municipal Census Program

- Combination of online responses and in-person census takers
- Hiring census takers for census operation and collection

	Admin Team Size	Software	External Support	Startup Cost* (\$M)	Biennial Cost Per Delivery* (\$M)	2025-2030 Cost* (\$M) (Startup + 2 Censuses)
<b>Internally Developed Census</b>	4	In House	None	~\$4.5	~\$4.2	~\$12.9
<b>Internally Developed Census with Licensed Software</b>	4	Licensed	Software Only	~\$0.7	~\$4.9	~\$10.5
<b>Contractor Supported Census (Preferred)</b>	3	Licensed	Census Operation	~\$0.7	~\$5.0	~\$10.7

\* High level estimate

# Contractor Supported Approach to a Census

## Rationale:

- Faster to use existing licensed software
- Saves significant up-front costs
- Administration focuses on analyzing and distributing census data
- Smaller permanent team
- Leverage the experience of contractors

## Funding:

- \$1 million in funding for 2025 & 2026 work secured through Housing Accelerator Fund
- Budget allocation would be needed in 2027-2030 to support implementation



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