

Council Discretionary Authorities in the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA)

LAEA Section	Discretionary Authority	Included in current Elections Bylaw (Attach. 1)?	Current Elections Bylaw Section (Attach. 1)	Returning Officer Comments
Election Day				
11(2)	Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a), an elected authority may by a bylaw passed prior to June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held, provide that the election day in the local jurisdiction is to be the Saturday immediately preceding the 3 rd Monday in October.	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial impacts and logistical considerations associated with administering a Saturday general election have not been assessed or included in approved Municipal Elections one-time funding. • Where a provincial referendum or Senate election is directed to occur with a general election, the general election must be held on the 3rd Monday in October despite any bylaw that is passed under Section 11(2) of the LAEA. • No previous general elections have incorporated this provision.
Qualification of Candidates				
21.1	An elected authority, by a bylaw passed prior to December 31 of the year before a year in which a general election is to be held, may require a person seeking to be nominated as a candidate	No	N/A	

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	to provide a criminal record check.			
Form of Nomination				
27(2)	Notwithstanding subsection (1), a municipality that is a local jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 or a board of trustees under the Education Act of a local jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 may, by a bylaw passed prior to December 31 of the year before a year in which a general election is to be held, specify the minimum number of electors required to sign the nomination of a candidate for an office, but that number must be at least 5 and not more than 100.	Yes	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, 100 electors are required to sign the nomination of candidates for offices of Councillor and Mayor. • School boards are accountable for establishing the number of electors required to sign the nomination of candidates for the office of School Board Trustee. • Attachment 3 is a jurisdictional scan of current nomination requirements.

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Nominations				
28(1.1)	An elected authority may, by a bylaw passed prior to December 31 of the year before a year in which a general election is to be held, provide that a returning officer may establish one or more locations, in addition to the local jurisdiction office, where a deputy may receive nominations.	Yes	4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the Returning Officer is authorized to establish one or more locations where nominations may be received. • The Returning Officer must publish on the City’s website, a list of all locations where nominations may be received.
29(1)	An elected authority may, by a bylaw passed prior to December 31 of the year before a year in which a general election is to be held require that every nomination be accompanied with a deposit in the amount fixed in the bylaw.	Yes	4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current candidate deposit requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$100 - Councillor or School Board Trustee. - \$500 - Mayor. • Attachment 3 is a jurisdictional scan of current nomination requirements.

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Death of a Candidate				
33(1)	<p>An elected authority may, by a bylaw passed prior to nomination day, provide that if prior to the opening of the voting stations on election day a candidate for an elected authority dies after being nominated,</p> <p>(a) the election for the position for which the deceased candidate was nominated shall be discontinued, and</p> <p>(b) the elected authority shall as soon as practicable provide for the holding of a new election for that office.</p> <p>(2) If a candidate dies after being nominated and a bylaw has not been passed under subsection (1), the returning officer shall cause a notice of</p>	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial impacts and logistical considerations associated with the provisions of Section 33(1) of the LAEA have not been assessed or included in approved Municipal Elections one-time funding. • No previous general elections have incorporated this provision.

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	the death to be posted at a conspicuous location in all the relevant voting stations.			
Voting Subdivisions				
36(1)	The elected authority by resolution, or the returning officer if authorized by resolution of the elected authority, may divide the local jurisdiction into voting subdivisions and may from time to time alter their boundaries but may not alter them between the time of the giving of notice of an election and the election day.	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority for the Returning Officer to divide the municipality into voting subdivisions provided for in the Electoral Ward Boundaries Bylaw (Bylaw 19M91).
Voting Stations				
37.1(3)	The elected authority may pass a bylaw by June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held allowing the returning	Yes	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the Returning Officer is authorized to designate more than one voting station for each voting subdivision and the location of such voting stations.

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	<p>officer of the elected authority to designate</p> <p>(a) more than one voting station for each subdivision, and</p> <p>(b) the location of those voting stations.</p>			
Contents of Ballot				
43(3)(a)(b) (c)(d)(e)	<p>Notwithstanding subsection (2), if an elected authority passes a bylaw 2 months before an election that provides that</p> <p>(a) ballots shall be printed in as many lots as there are candidates for the office,</p> <p>(b) in the first lot the names of the candidates shall appear in alphabetical order,</p> <p>(c) in the 2nd lot the names shall appear in the same order,</p>	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and logistical considerations associated with printing ballots in lots has not been assessed or included in current planning for the 2025 General Election. Use of lot-printed ballots could present barriers for electors who rely on the order of candidates to mark their ballots independently. This includes blind elector template users and electors with limited English language fluency.

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	<p>except that the first name in the first lot shall be placed last,</p> <p>(d) in each succeeding lot, the order shall be the same as that of the preceding lot, except that the first name in the preceding lot shall be placed last, and</p> <p>(e) tablets of ballots to be used at each voting station shall be made up by combining ballots from the different lots in regular rotation so that no 2 consecutive electors may receive ballot papers from the same lot and so that each candidate's name shall appear first and in each other position substantially the same number of times on the ballots used, then the ballots used in an election while the bylaw is in force shall be in the form described in this subsection.</p>			

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Voting Hours				
46(2)	Notwithstanding subsection (1), an elected authority may, by a bylaw passed prior to June 30 of a year in which an election is to be held, provide that the voting station is to be open before 10 a.m.	Yes	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate worker fatigue and ensure vote counting accuracy, early voting hours will not be required for the 2025 General Election. • In the 2021 General Election, this provision was introduced to reduce the capacity of electors in voting stations and support social distancing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. • An analysis from 2021 General Election showed that 8% of electors cast their ballot between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Election Day.
46(2.1)	Despite subsection (1), an elected authority that is responsible for the conduct of an election under an agreement referred to in section 2(2) or 3(1) may, by a bylaw passed before June 30 of a year in which an election is to be held, provide that voting stations in an area that is subject to the agreement are to be open before 10 a.m.	Yes	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections Calgary administers School Board Trustee elections on behalf of the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD). Except for establishing the number of electors required to sign the nomination of candidates for the office of School Board Trustee, City bylaws enacted under the LAEA apply equally to School Board Trustee candidates. • The CCSD jurisdiction includes electors in the municipalities of Airdrie, Chestermere, and Cochrane.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For convenience, Elections Calgary has historically co-located advance and Election Day voting stations and aligned voting hours for CCSD electors with those offered by the municipalities of Airdrie, Chestermere, and Cochrane. • Any changes required to the current Early Voting Hours Bylaw (Bylaw 29M2007) depending on Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane’s decisions will be brought forward for Council’s consideration.
Application for Special (Mail-in) Ballot				
77.1(2)	<p>An elected authority may, by resolution passed prior to nomination day, provide for special ballots and provide that the application for special ballots may be made by any one or more of the following methods:</p> <p>(a) in writing;</p> <p>(b) by telephone;</p>	Yes	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the use of special ballots for an election is authorized and the Returning Officer has delegated authority to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accept applications for special ballots; – Set the time during which applications for a special ballot will be accepted; and – Set the date and time by which special ballots must be received. • The bylaw sets the methods by which an application for a special ballot may be made.

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	(c) by fax; (d) in person; (e) by e-mail; (f) by secure website			
Receipt of Completed Special (Mail-in) Ballot Packages				
77.21(2)	An elected authority, by resolution, may set a time and date earlier than the closing of the voting station on election day for when a completed special ballot package must be received by a returning officer.	Yes	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the Returning Officer has delegated authority to set the date and time by which special ballots must be received.
Elector Assistance				
78(4.1)	If an elector requests a blind elector template by June 30 in a year in which a general election is to be held, a municipality must pass a bylaw	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elections Bylaw will provide authority to use of a blind elector template (also called a tactile ballot template) in keeping with Section 78 of the LAEA. In 2021, electronic ballot marking devices were used to aid voters with disabilities to mark their ballots independently.

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	setting out the blind elector template.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 20 amendments to the LAEA prohibit the use of electronic ballot marking devices.
79(1)	An elected authority may by resolution provide for the attendance of 2 deputies at the residence of an elector, during the hours an advance voting station is open or other times as may be fixed by the resolution, in order to take the votes of an elector who, because of physical disability, is unable to attend a voting station or an advance voting station to vote.	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial impacts and logistical considerations associated with home voting have not been assessed or included in approved Municipal Elections one-time funding. • Bill 20 amendments to the LAEA permit an application for a special (mail-in) ballot for any elector who is unable to vote in person during advance voting or on Election Day. Previously, to receive a special (mail-in) ballot, an elector had to declare they will be absent from the municipality during available voting, or have a physical disability prohibiting their ability to vote in person. • Elections Calgary seeks advice from partners to inform voting experience improvements, including the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and community organizations.

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Institutional Vote Location, Eligibility and Appointments				
80(1)	The elected authority by resolution or the returning officer, if authorized by resolution of the elected authority, may designate the location of one or more institutional voting stations for an election in addition to voting stations designated under section 37.	Yes	6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the Returning Officer is authorized to designate the location of one or more institutional voting stations (e.g., care facilities, hospitals and shelters) for an election.
Counting Centres				
85.1(4)	An elected authority may pass a bylaw by June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held allowing the returning officer of the elected authority to count the special ballot box, advance vote ballot box and institutional vote ballot box no earlier than 7:30 p.m. on election day.	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elections Bylaw will provide that the Returning Officer is authorized to count the special ballot box, advance vote ballot box, and institutional vote ballot box no earlier than 7:30 p.m. on election day. This provision will aid in the efficiency of the hand count of ballots.

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Campaign Expense Limits				
147.91 (2)	<p>An elected authority may pass a bylaw determining campaign expense limits for the purpose of section 147.34 in an amount that is less than the amount determined by regulation under subsection (1)</p> <p>(a) with respect to a general election, prior to December 31 of the year before the general election is held, and</p> <p>(b) with respect to a by-election, at least 180 days before the byelection at which the bylaw is to take effect.</p>	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Regulation 171/2024 (Expense Limits Regulation) came into effect on 2024 October 31. • Campaign finance (contribution and expense) provisions for 2025 General Election candidates are outlined on Elections Calgary's website for convenience. • As of early November 2024, Elections Calgary is unaware of any Alberta municipality having enacted a bylaw under Section 147.91 (2) of the LAEA.