



Elections Bylaw Procedures – Preparations for 2025 General Election

C2024-1175

2024 November 26

Recommendation:

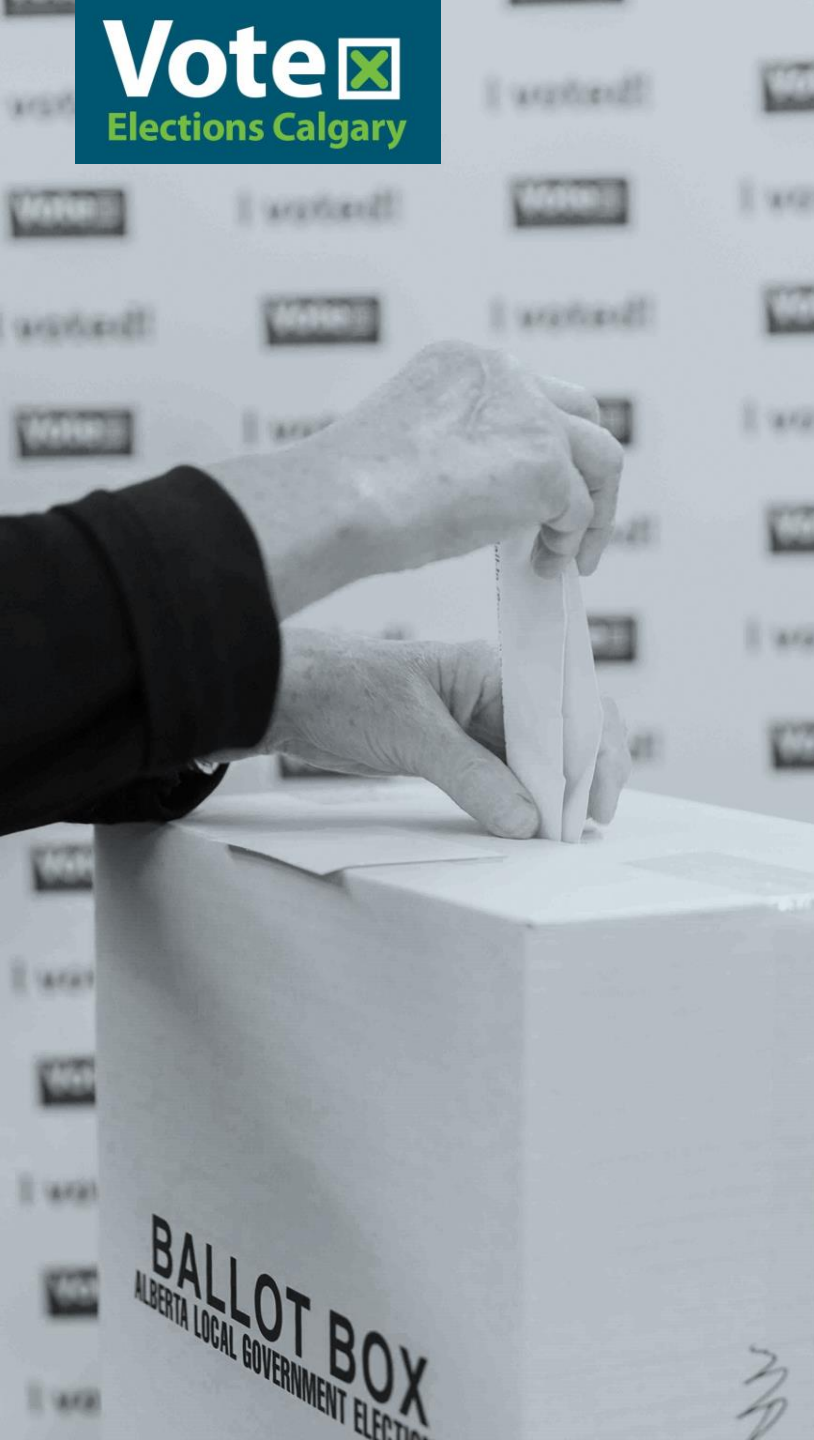
That Council direct the Returning Officer to prepare a proposed Elections Bylaw and return to the 2024 December 17 Regular Meeting of Council for three readings.

Highlights

- The LAEA permits Council to pass bylaws to provide authority and govern election procedures, as contained in Elections Bylaw (Attachment 1).
- Changes to election procedures in the Elections Bylaw are required, or desired to align with Bill 20 amendments to the LAEA:
 - Alternative Voting Equipment.
 - Ballots.
 - Counting Centre.
 - Criminal Record Checks.
 - Elector Assistance.
 - Permanent Electors Register.
 - Voting Station Hours.
- A new Elections Bylaw will be brought forward at 2024 December 17 Regular Council Meeting.

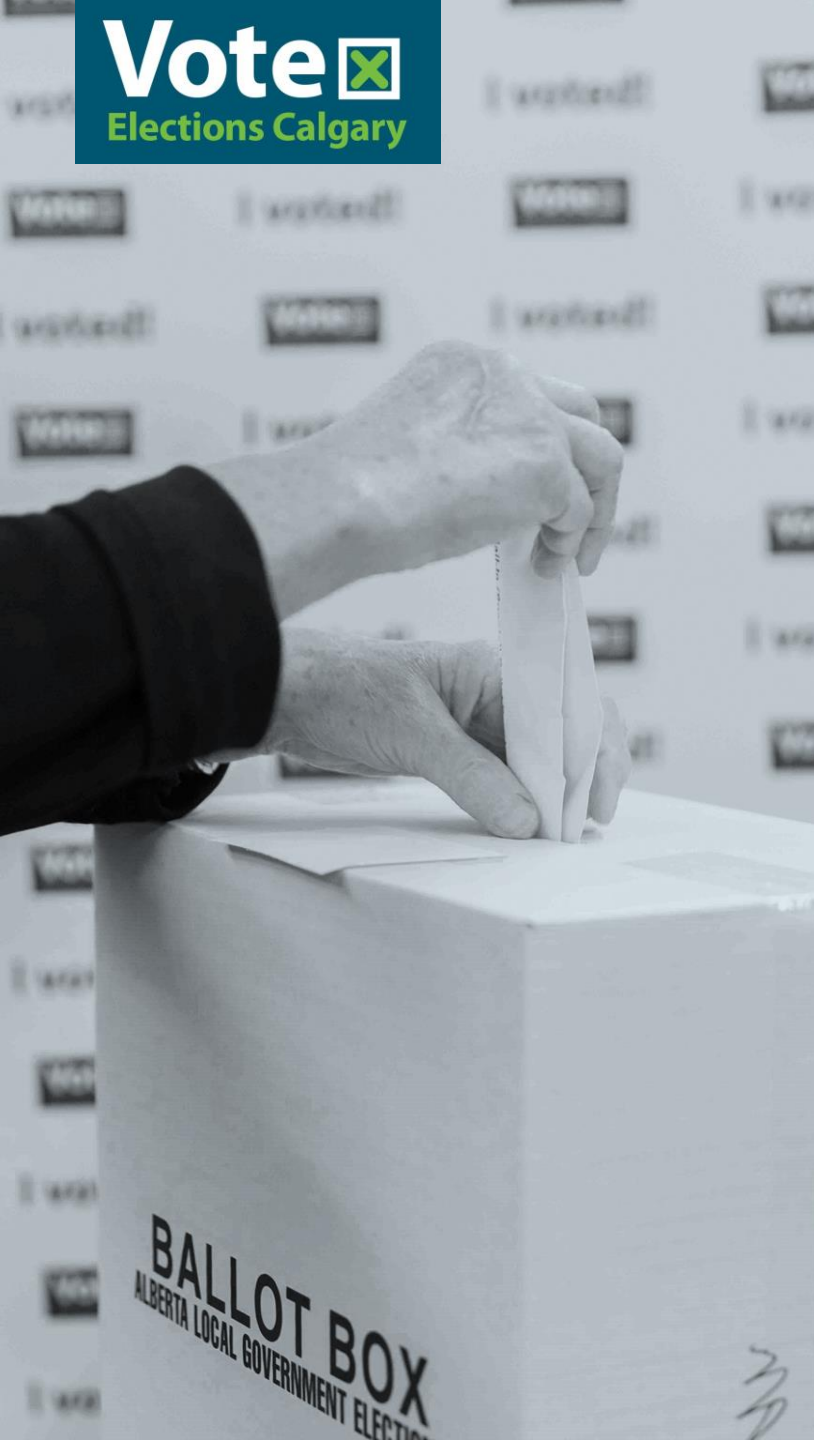
Bill 20 Changes: *Alternative Voting Equipment*

- References to alternative voting equipment will be removed from the Elections Bylaw.



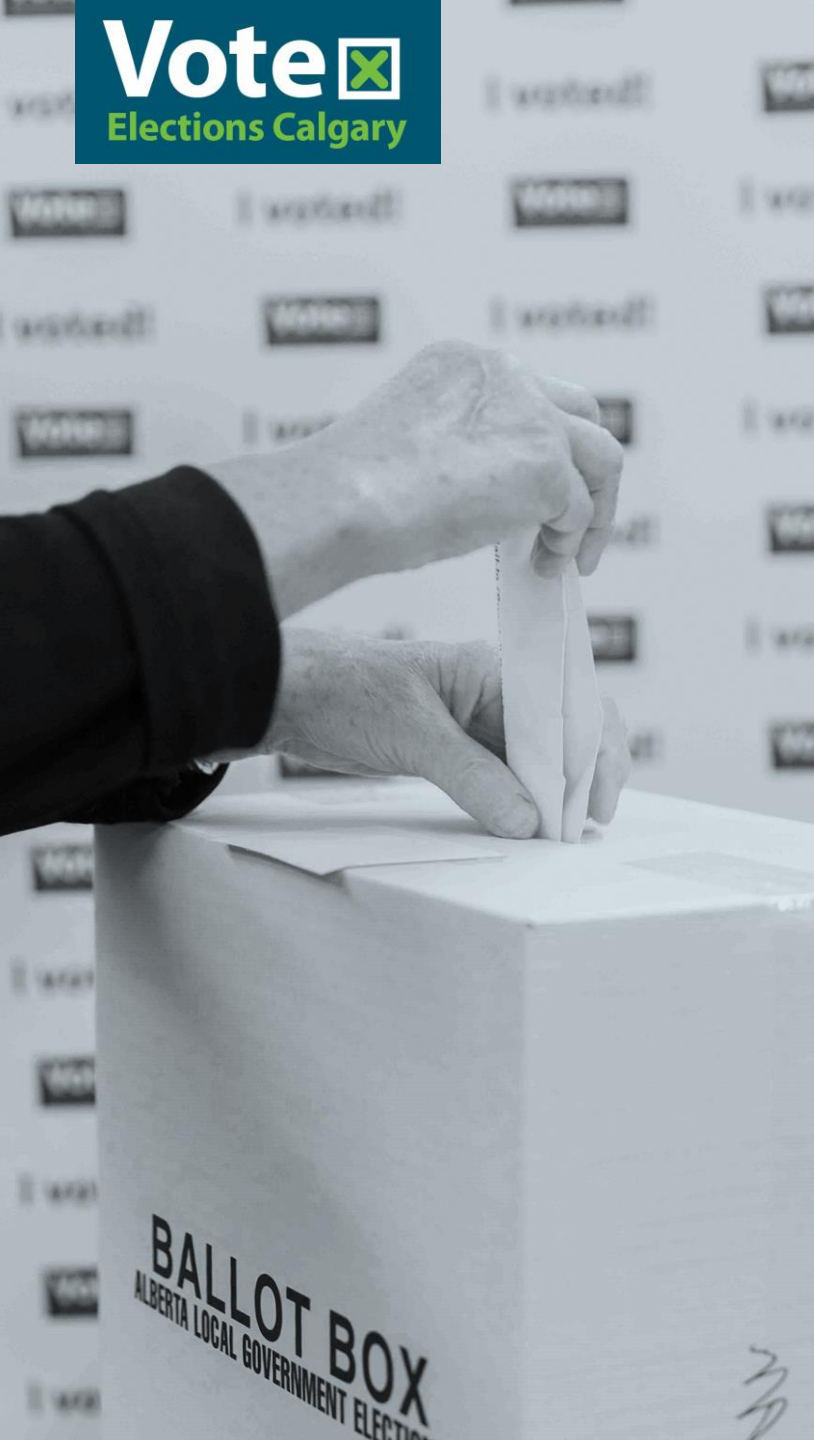
Bill 20 Changes: *Ballots*

- Elections Bylaw no longer requires authorization to use a composite ballot.



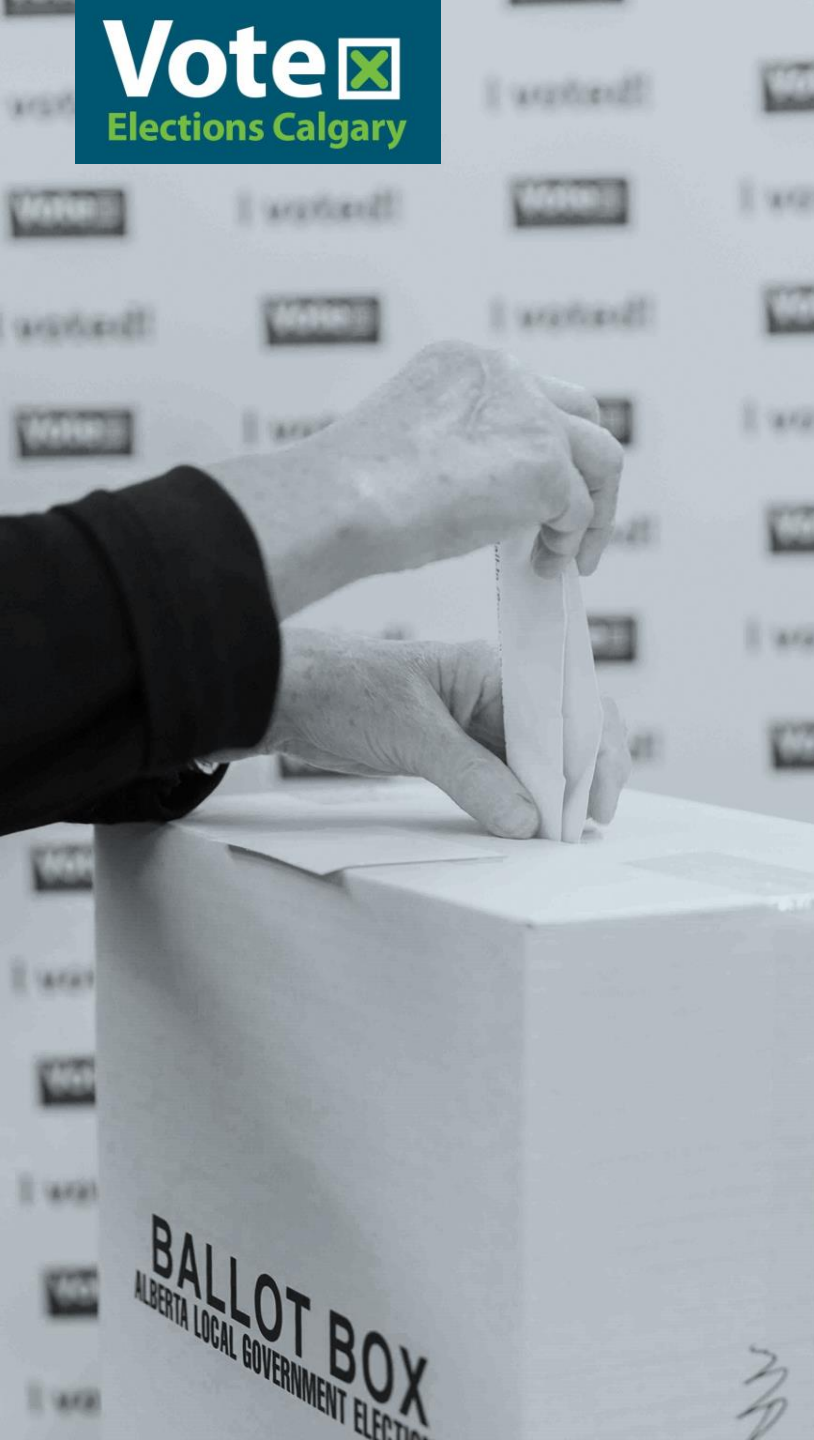
Bill 20 Changes: *Permanent Electors Register*

- References to the permanent electors register in the Elections Bylaw will be removed.



Bill 20 Changes: *Voting Station Hours*

- Early voting hours will not be required for the 2025 General Election.



Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks*

- Section 21.1 of the LAEA:

“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 to provide a criminal record check.”

Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

- Police Information Check:
 - Canada-wide criminal record history.
 - Police history.
 - Local police information.
 - Alberta Provincial court records.
- Cost: \$75.00



Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

- Vulnerable sector check:
 - Requesting organization determines if position requires vulnerable sector check.
 - Required for positions directly responsible for well-being of a vulnerable person, and the position is one of authority or trust relative to vulnerable people.
 - CPS verifies if the position meets the requirements for the vulnerable sector check (Section 6.3 of *the Criminal Records Act*), and determine if it is conducted.

Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

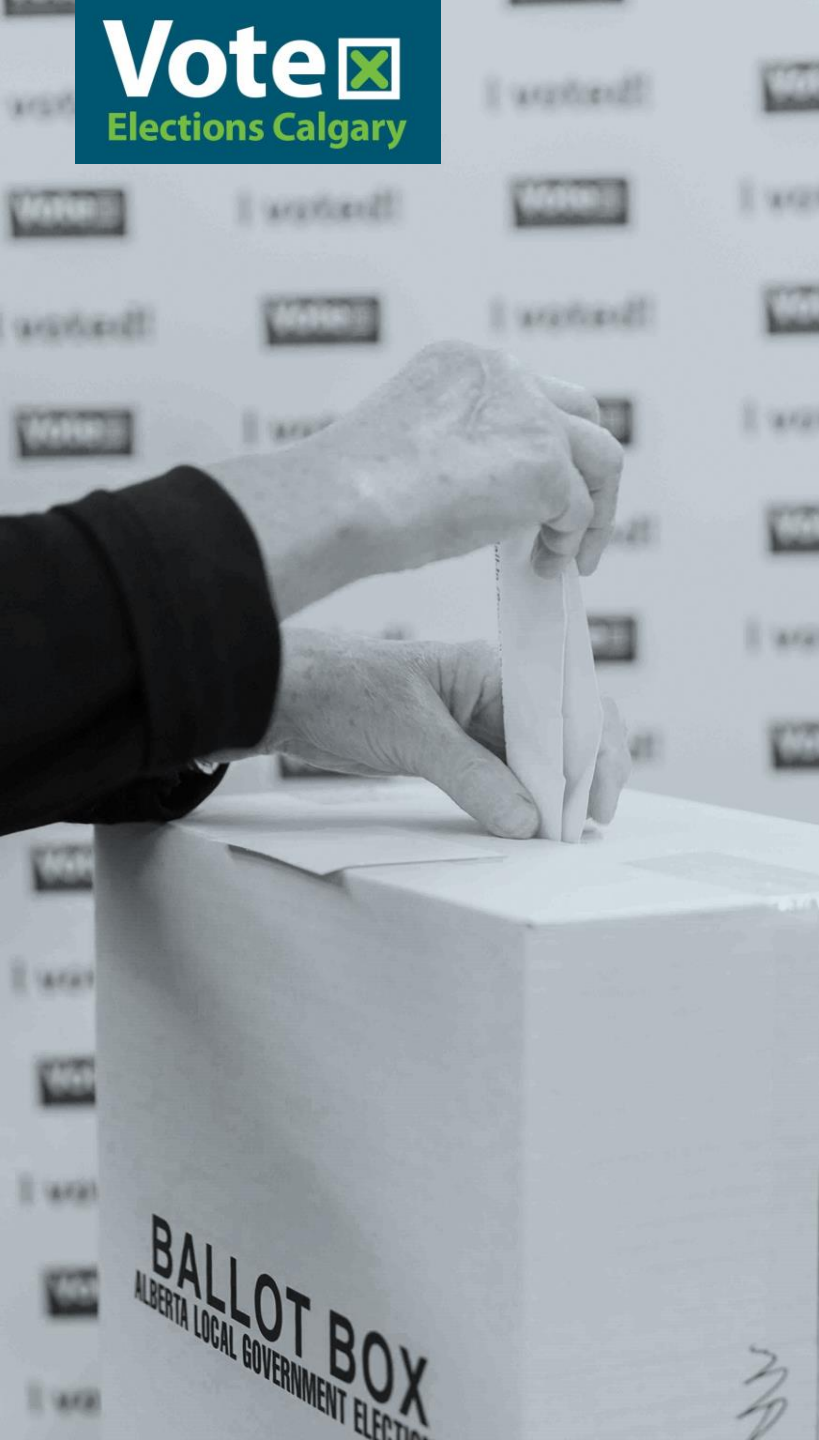
- Private, third-party company:
 - Reveals whether any criminal records identified.
 - No additional information provided (e.g., upcoming court appearances, or convictions).
- Cost: \$45-65.



Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

- Jurisdictional scan (Alberta municipalities):

| Alberta Municipality | Criminal Record Check Required? | Alberta Municipality | Criminal Record Check Required? |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Airdrie | TBD | Lethbridge | TBD |
| Edmonton | No | Medicine Hat | TBD |
| Grande Prairie | No | Red Deer | TBD |
| | | Wood Buffalo | No |



Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

- Election Bylaw Considerations Requiring Council Direction and Decision:
 - The source of criminal record check that would be accepted (Calgary Police PIC and/or a private, third-party company).
 - Time period within which the criminal record check has been sourced.
 - Specify accountability for the costs of the criminal record check.

Bill 20 Changes: *Criminal Record Checks, Cont'd*

- Implementation (if directed by Council):
 - If PIC selected, continued engagement with Calgary Police Service.
 - Candidate awareness and information.
 - Requirement for a criminal record check will not delay campaign activities, provided notice has been filed with Elections Calgary.



Recommendation:

That Council direct the Returning Officer to prepare a proposed Elections Bylaw and return to the 2024 December 17 Regular Meeting of Council for three readings.