

ELECTORAL AND DEMOCRATIC REFORM - POTENTIAL ISSUES FOR DEBATE

Electoral Process	Potential Issues
A) Campaign Finance Reform	<p>Transparency of fund raising activities, fund-raising and spending limits including defining maximum expenditures during the campaign for each candidate and for Mayor;</p> <p>Identification of donors, requirement to identify anonymous donations (i.e., anonymous donations over certain amount not allowed and must be transferred to charity, etc.);</p> <p>Timing of the requirement to disclose;</p> <p>Quantifying other forms of campaign contributions – i.e., “contributions “in kind”;</p> <p>Real time or interval based reporting of donations and other forms of contributions made to candidates (web-based) during the campaign period;</p> <p>Addressing issue of incumbent advantage – regulations to control when an incumbent can commence raising funds for re-election;</p> <p>Tax credits and other incentives for non-wealthy citizens to make small contributions (e.g., property tax credits, a refundable rebate that reduces cost to access City services, for example reduction cost of recreation memberships, recycling fees, etc);</p>
B) Conduct of Candidates / Election	<p>Involvement of political action committees, aka Third Parties, at the municipal level to avoid campaign spending limitations (note The Government of Alberta introduced new rules 2017 December, Bill 32, for this sort of activity at the Provincial level);</p> <p>Third party advertising;</p> <p>Support and training of candidates;</p> <p>Involvement of political parties at the municipal level;</p> <p>Declaration of an “official” campaign period;</p>

		<p>Incumbents seeking re-election continuing to receive remuneration / compensation during the “official” campaign period;</p> <p>Procedures for enforcing election laws during the election.</p>
C) Structure of Council		<p>Geographic, at large, or some mixture of both type of candidates for elected office;</p> <p>Ratio of Councillors to Citizens – is there an appropriate target level? e.g., 75,000 residents per Councillor;</p> <p>Developing opportunities for under-represented groups to participate in the electoral process;</p> <p>Under-representation of women in municipal councils.</p>
D) The Voting System		<p>Other options besides “first past the post” - Proportional representation, preferential or weighted voting systems (Note – from 1916 to 1973 Calgary municipal elections were conducted using proportional voting systems¹);</p> <p>Mixed member majority, a single representative for a ward, representative selected “at large”;</p> <p>Anytime – anywhere voting model;</p> <p>Threshold for determining a winner (percentage of votes received).</p> <p>Internet and online voting, security of voting areas, use of blockchain technology for voting and elections.</p>
E) Voter eligibility & identifying electors		<p>Ensuring all eligible voters are enumerated;</p> <p>Lowering the voting age;</p> <p>Extending the right to vote in a municipal election to residents of Calgary who are not Canadian citizens.</p>

F) Other Issues with respect to Democratic or Electoral Reform	<p>Improving voter audit trails to resolve disputes and support investigation of voting irregularities;</p> <p>Investigative processes to enable immediate review of citizen complaints and irregularities during the campaign period;</p> <p>Other issues of concern?</p>
---	--

ⁱ **NOTE:** Calgary municipal elections used a Single Transferable Vote system from 1916 – 1961. This voting system was changed to an Alternative Vote System in 1961, which continue until 1973 when the current “First Past the Post” system was adopted. In a Single Transferable Vote system voters rank their choice of candidates in order of preference from 1 to last (i.e., if five candidates are running, first choice to fifth choice). Once a candidate reaches the established quota of votes, they are deemed elected. The remaining first vote ballots for that candidate are then distributed to the voter’s second choice, and so on. Calgary’s Alternative Vote System required a candidate to obtain a clear majority of votes to win. If no candidate achieves 50.1% of the vote, then the candidate with the least number of votes was eliminated and the eliminated candidate’s votes are distributed to remaining candidates based on second-preference votes. This process continued until one candidate attained 50.1% of the votes.

These voting systems were eliminated by The City of Calgary because, as the population of the city increased, the amount of time required to count ballots rose exponentially, often taking weeks to determine winners. See especially, Dennis Pilon, *The Politics of Voting - Reforming Canada’s Electoral System*, Emond Montgomery Publications Limited, Toronto, 2007, p. 81.