

Campaign Contributions and Finance Disclosures

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Disclosure Statements	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> does not require candidates who fund their own campaigns and spend less than \$10,000 to provide disclosure statements.	Require financial disclosure statements from candidates who fund their own municipal campaigns.	The Returning Officer agrees.
Campaign Bank Account	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> does not require campaign bank accounts to be opened until a threshold of \$5,000 has been collected.	Require all candidates to open a campaign bank account.	The Returning Officer agrees.
Contribution Limit	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> sets contribution limits by donors at \$5,000 per year to a candidate and self-funded candidates at \$10,000 per campaign period.	Reduce municipal election contribution limit to \$4,000 per donor, per year.	The Returning Officer agrees. Start the next campaign period January 1, 2022 to avoid confusion for candidates currently fundraising.
Contribution Limit	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> sets contribution limits by donors at \$5,000 per year to a candidate and self-funded candidates at \$10,000 per campaign period.	"Per donor, per year" means that an individual may donate a total of \$4,000 per year, regardless of how many candidates an individual donates to.	The Returning Officer disagrees. Currently, the Returning Officer does not have the authority to review contribution limits of individuals who donate to candidates outside of Calgary. There are no mechanisms to compare individual contributions across the province.
Contribution Limit	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> sets contribution limits by donors at \$5,000 per year to a candidate and self-funded candidates at \$10,000 per campaign period.	Apply the \$4000 annual limit on municipal election campaign contributions to candidates who are self-funding.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Campaign Expenses

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Candidate Registration	A candidate must register prior to accepting campaign contributions; however, there is no registration requirement for individuals who intend to finance their campaign entirely from their own funds.	Require all candidates, including those who finance their own campaign to register prior to incurring campaign expenses or accepting contributions.	The Returning Officer agrees and would recommend having the candidate declare what office they are running for to provide greater transparency to the electors.

Campaign Spending Limits	The Act does not impose spending limits on candidates running in municipal elections.	Require municipalities to establish limits on campaign spending.	The Returning Officer disagrees. Municipalities should be enabled to set limits through municipal bylaws as an option, rather than a requirement. The Returning Officer recommends audit measures or penalties similar to Elections Alberta.
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Third Party Advertising

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Third Party Advertising	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> does not address third-party advertising.	Align third-party advertising requirements (including definition of third-party advertiser, registration, spending limits, receipts, and reporting) with the Alberta <i>Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act</i> .	The Returning Officer agrees. However, the Returning Officer would recommend enabling the municipality to set its own bylaws for compliance, maximum and minimum spending limits, time limits and alignment with the municipality election signage bylaw.

School Board Trustee Elections

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
School Board Trustee Elections	School boards may pass a bylaw requiring campaign disclosure.	Apply the Election Finance and Disclosure rules of the <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> to school board trustee elections, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign finance disclosure • Union and Corporate donations • Contribution and spending limits 	Calgary school boards already have passed bylaws to require disclosure on expenditures and fundraising. The Returning Officer recommends that passage of a bylaw being optional.

Campaign Finance General Clarifying and Technical Amendments

Current Status	For Consideration	Rationale	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Donating Campaign Surplus Confusion exists regarding whether all candidates can donate their campaign surplus or only the candidates that have been elected.	Clarify that all candidates who do not run in the next general election can donate their campaign surplus to the municipality.	The intent is to provide former candidates the option of donating their campaign surplus to the municipality instead of a registered charity. The wording of the current provision implies that only elected candidates can do so.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Campaign Surplus A candidate must turn over surplus funds to the custody of the municipality	Clarify the process by identifying: How the funds must be kept in trust (one account versus separate accounts); The interest rate or how to determine the interest rate; and When the surplus funds must be released to candidates by the municipality.	Addresses concerns from elected officials and candidates over access to funds during campaign periods. Addresses concerns from municipalities over additional administrative requirements.	The Returning Officer recommends that funds be released to candidates within 30 days of registration of intent to run not on nomination day.
Election Expenditure Reports A candidate who received campaign contributions or funded their own campaign with an amount exceeding \$10,000 must file a statement that itemizes campaign contributions, and identifies the total amount of revenue and expenses. It is not required that the expenses identified be itemized or categorized in the report	Require candidates who received campaign contributions <u>or</u> funded their own campaign to file a statement that itemizes campaign contributions, and identifies the total amount of revenue and expenses by category.	Requiring a self-funded candidate to report expenses by category would further increase transparency and accountability of candidates.	The Returning Officer agrees.
Candidate Registration Forms Form 3A – Registration of Notice of Intent is not prescribed by the LAEA.	Amend the regulations to prescribe Form 3A – Registration of Notice of Intent in support of the new requirement for candidates to register with the municipality prior to accepting campaign contributions.	Consequential to the proposed amendment that would require all candidates to register.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Voter Eligibility & Accessibility

Advance Votes

Topic	Current	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Populations over 5,000	Municipalities may, but are not required to, conduct an advance vote.	Require advance votes for municipalities with a population over 5,000. Municipalities less than 5,000 will be enabled to choose to hold an advance vote through a resolution of council allowing for the Returning Officer to establish dates, times and location of the advance vote(s).	The Returning Officer agrees.

Notification of Advance Vote	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> requires notification of an advance vote in accordance with the notification for election day but does not provide that the two can be included together in the same advertisement.	Allow for the notice of advance vote to be included in the notice of Election Day	The Returning Officer agrees.
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Residency Requirements

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Residency Requirements	An elector must be a resident of Alberta for six months prior to election day and a resident of the municipality on election day.	Remove six month Alberta residency requirement.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Voter Identification

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Identification Requirements	Electors are required to provide one piece of identification with name and address. This can either be government issued identification or one piece of approved identification from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta under the <i>Election Act</i> .	Create a list of authorized identification that is independent from the list provided by Elections Alberta. Extend authority of the Minister to expand the list of acceptable identification to meet needs of municipalities.	The Returning Officer recommends leaving identification requirements as-is. Electors have been educated on the new identification requirements that were changed in 2012. Further changes will cause confusion.
Vouching	Vouching can only occur if an elector's name appears on a list of electors. If this is the case, the elector may vouch for another person who does not appear on the list of electors.	Expand vouching provisions to include the ability of an elector who has shown appropriate identification to vouch for another elector.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Accountability & Transparency

Substitute Returning Officers

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Substitute Returning Officers	The Mayor/Reeve/Board Chair may appoint a substitute returning officer.	Require the council/board to appoint a substitute returning officer.	The Returning Officer agrees. .

Nomination Day and Nomination Papers

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Nomination papers	Returning officers can only refuse papers if they have not been signed by the required number of electors or if they are not accompanied by a deposit, if established by bylaw.	Allow returning officers to refuse nomination papers if the paper is not sworn/affirmed.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Election Campaign Advertising at Voting Stations

Topic	Current	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Campaign Advertising Rules	The Act prohibits campaign activities such as canvassing or soliciting votes in a building where a voting station is located, but not in the surrounding area, such as a parking lot.	Establish a distance around the voting station where campaign activities are not permitted.	The Returning Officer recommends it be defined as the perimeter of the property or as defined by the Returning Officer through the placement of signage.
Enforcement of Election Campaign Advertising at Voting Stations	The Act authorizes the returning officer and/or deputies to remove campaign materials if displayed within a voting station, but does not extend outside of the voting station.	Establish provisions that allow the returning officer to request persons engaged in campaign activities in the voting station or within 100m of the of the voting station to leave;	The Returning Officer disagrees.

Candidate List

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Public Posting of Candidate List	Municipalities and School Boards are not required to post a list of candidates following the period for withdrawal after nomination day.	Require municipality to release or make public a list of candidates immediately after the time limit for withdrawal of nominations has passed.	The Returning Officer recommends that this be specified as an online (website) list and not defined as a prescribed form within the forms Regulation.

Special Ballots

Topic	Current Status	For Consideration	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Review of Special Ballots	The minister is required to appoint special ballot advisors to review questionable special ballots	Remove the requirement for special ballot advisors, as well as the requirement to notify the Minister of the use of special ballots.	The Returning Officer agrees.

Returning Officer Responsibility	The Minister of Municipal Affairs appoints special ballot advisors who may accept or reject a special ballot in instances where the local returning officer feels unable to make a determination.	Expand authority for the returning officer to accept or reject a special ballot, in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> , rather than requiring the Minister to appoint a special ballot advisor to make a determination.	The Returning Officer agrees.
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Additional Items for Consideration

Current Status	For Consideration	Rationale	Calgary Returning Officer Comments
Election Regulations Regulations currently exist that outline specific processes for Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. The modified voting procedure allows for ministerial power and bylaws to adjust certain processes in the Local Authorities Election Act.	Repeal the modified voting procedure regulation, ballot box regulation, City of Edmonton Regulation, City of Calgary Regulation, and City of Red Deer Regulation and incorporate provisions into the <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> .	Reduces regulatory burden on municipalities and reduces complications. Regulated procedures would benefit any large election process and will be of value to other municipalities.	The Returning Officer recommends that parallel regulated changes should be included before regulations are eliminated.
Cell Phone Use Local Authorities Election Act does not address the use of cell phones in voting stations.	Allow municipalities to create rules regarding the use of cell phones, such as restricting voice calls, photography or social media, while in the voting station.	Provides flexibility to municipalities to determine their specific needs for regulating the use of cellphones.	The Returning Officer recommends that "cell phones" is too narrow and needs to be broadened to include other forms of image producing electronic devices.
Definition of "Candidate" and "Campaign Period" Local Authorities Election Act does not clearly define when a person officially becomes a candidate. The definition of "campaign period" does not align with the definition of "candidate."	Amend the definition of "candidate" to mean an individual who has filed a registration of notice under section 147.21. Amend the definition of "campaign period" to be January 1 in the year of a general election to December 31 in the year of a general election. In the case of a by-election, beginning when the vacancy occurred to 180 days following the date of the by-election.	Ensures consistency with definitions to eliminate confusion and increase clarity.	The Returning Officer agrees.