

Report to Council



Date: May 14, 2018
File: 0610-50
To: Acting City Manager
From: Deputy City Clerk
Subject: 2018 Election Officer Appointments and Election Bylaws

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive the report of the Deputy City Clerk, dated May 14, 2018 regarding the 2018 Election Officer Appointments and Election Bylaws for information;

AND THAT Council appoint Karen Needham, Deputy City Clerk as Chief Election Officer for the 2018 General Local Election;

AND THAT Council appoint Stephen Fleming, City Clerk and Corinne Boback, Legislative Coordinator, as Deputy Chief Election Officers for the 2018 General Local Election;

AND THAT the Chief Election Officer be authorized to enter into agreements with relevant third parties for the purposes of conducting the 2018 General Local Election;

AND THAT Council gives reading consideration to Bylaw No. 11565 being the 2018 General Local Election;

AND FURTHER THAT Council gives reading consideration to Bylaw No. 11569 being Amendment No.1 to Bylaw No.10970 Automated Voting Machine Bylaw.

Purpose:

To appoint the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officers and establish procedures for the conduct of the 2018 General Local Election.

Background:

Each local government in B.C. is responsible for conducting its own general local election as established under the *Local Government Act*. There are however, several authorities who play a role in local government elections:

- The City of Kelowna, through the appointment of the Chief Election Officer, ensures the election is conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act and the School Act* with responsibility for nominations, voting and election results;
- Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections and assent voting in B.C. under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)*; and
- The Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Education provide the legislation for general local elections and school trustees*/school board elections.

*Through an agreement with School District 23, the City of Kelowna will conduct the Kelowna School Trustee election on behalf of the Board of Education.

2018 key dates

Jan. 1 – Sept. 21, 2018	Election period
July 27, 2018	Candidate nomination packages available
Sept. 4 – 14, 2018	Nomination period
Sept. 22 – October 20, 2018	Campaign period
Oct. 10 and 17, 2018	Required advance voting opportunities
Oct. 20, 2018	General Voting Day
Jan.18, 2019	Campaign financing disclosure statement filing deadline

Election Bylaws

The 2018 General Local Election Bylaw No. 10925 sets the procedures for the conduct of the election, and establishes the following:

- Names of candidates on the ballot will be in alphabetical order;
- any tie vote after a judicial recount will be determined by lot;
- number of nominators required will be ten (10)
- a refundable \$100.00 nomination deposit will be required;
- special voting opportunities will be available to qualified electors who are residents, patients, family members or staff at the facility being used; and
- mail ballot, additional advance and additional general voting options will be offered, and authorizes the Chief Election Officer to establish the voting locations and times.

With General Voting Day, Oct. 20, 2018 being one month earlier than previous elections, we anticipate a stronger voter turnout at advance voting, and potentially fewer mail ballot applications. Numerous advance and general voting opportunities will be provided to ensure elector accessibility to voting opportunities on multiple days and in a variety of convenient locations including:

Oct.10 – Required

- Parkinson Recreation Centre, 1800 Parkinson Way
- City Hall, 1435 Water St

Oct. 13 – Additional

- Parkinson Recreation Centre, 1800 Parkinson Way
- Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Dr

- Hollywood Education Center, 1040 Hollywood Rd
- Watson Elementary, 475 Yates Rd

Oct. 17 – Required

- Parkinson Recreation Centre, 1800 Parkinson Way
- City Hall, 1435 Water St
- Okanagan College, Centre for Learning Atrium, 1000 KLO Rd
- UBCO, Engineering Management and Education (EME) Foyer (Lower Level), 1137 Alumni Ave

Oct. 18-19 – Additional

- Parkinson Recreation Centre, 1800 Parkinson Way

Oct. 20 – General Voting Day

- Up to 13 locations city-wide – TBD

The Automated Voting Machine Bylaw No. 10970 is required to permit the use of automated vote counting machines and sets out the procedures electors and election staff will follow. As in the previous two general local elections (2014 and 2010), the 'voter assist terminal' will be available for voters with differing abilities, to provide an electronic option to mark their ballot privately and independently. The bylaw has been amended, as in 2018 the voter assist terminal will be available at all voting opportunities held at Parkinson Recreation Centre.

Summary

The General Local Election is an opportunity for all qualified electors in Kelowna to exercise their right to vote and, as a community, elect their 2018-2022 City Council. A full communication plan will be developed to ensure relevant information is provided in multiple formats to engage and inform our residents.

The Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officers are committed to ensuring multiple voting opportunities are available to provide voting accessibility to all electors, and ensuring that all voting opportunities are conducted in a fair and open manner with respect of the integrity of the individual vote.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Local Government Act, Part 3 Electors and Election

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Local Government Act, s.56(2) - election bylaws must be adopted a minimum of 56 days prior to the first day of the nomination period.

Existing Policy:

Bylaw No.10970 – Use of Automated Voting Machines – permits the use of voter assist terminals

Bylaw No. 10547 – Elector Registration – establishes same day elector registration

Bylaw No. 10411 – Election Sign – regulates the duration, placement and number of election signs

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Funding in support of the four-year election cycle is provided through regular annual budget contributions to the Election reserve fund.

Personnel Implications:

The election budget includes a six (6) month Elections Clerk, with the Office of the City Clerk staff assigned as needed and under restricted leave during September and October to assist with the election and provide continuity for our regular duties.

Internal Circulation:

Legislative Coordinator
Communication Consultant

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Communications Comments:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

Karen Needham
Deputy City Clerk

Approved for inclusion by: S. Fleming, City Clerk
 R. Mayne, Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services