

# Report to Council



**Date:** November 19, 2018  
**File:** o625-08  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Chief Election Officer  
**Subject:** Election 2018 Results and Ballot Account Report

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive the Election 2018 Results and Ballot Account Report from the Chief Election Officer, dated November 19, 2018 for information.

## **Purpose:**

To report on the final results and ballot account for the City of Kelowna 2018 General Local Election

## **Background:**

At the close of voting on general voting day, October 20, 2018 a total of 32,151 Kelowna voters cast a ballot in the City of Kelowna 2018 General Local Election.

The attached 'Declaration of Official Results and Ballot Account' has been prepared for presentation to Council as required under the *Local Government Act*. The Official Results will then be forwarded to the Queen's Printer for publication by the Province of B.C.

## **Election Summary:**

Over six days of voting and 24 opportunities, as well as special and mail ballot voting, a total of 32,151 residents cast their vote for City of Kelowna Council and School Trustees. This represents 30.43% of the estimated 105,645 eligible voters.

In keeping with the principles of fairness and accessibility the 2018 election bylaws included multiple ways to vote with the use of advance, additional, voter assistance technology, special and mail ballot voting, in addition to General Voting Day. This variety of options allowed for a trial Saturday advance voting day on October 13; use of the voter assist terminal over all six days of voting at Parkinson Recreation Centre; Kelowna General Hospital and residential care facilities for special voting; and the return to the unique voting locations of Orchard Park Mall with special hours, UBC-Okanagan, Okanagan College, and the indoor soccer fields at the Capital News Centre. Throughout the city, voting places for our residents included neighbourhood schools, as well as community centres.

Overall, for the number of voting opportunities provided, there were 380 election positions filled by individuals hired and trained as Presiding Election Officials, Alternate Presiding Election Officials and Election Officials. In addition to the principles of fairness, accessibility and awareness, the election officials training and conduct focused on their critical role in maintaining the integrity of the registration and voting process and the secrecy of the ballot.

New for 2018 was the introduction of student greeters assigned to various voting locations in a volunteer capacity. This initiative with SD#23 provided 11 students the opportunity to be involved in the election while earning credits towards their community service requirements for graduation.

Following the posting of unofficial results at the close of voting on October 20, and the determination of the final results on October 23, the official results were declared on Tuesday, October 23, 2018.

**Next Steps:**

A review of the 2018 election plan, including budget, administration, communication, and feedback received from residents is currently underway. This, along with an election staff survey, will help summarize the 2018 election successes, challenges and opportunities, and inform future election planning.

As our city grows, research and discussion will be ongoing in various areas related to elections and citizen engagement, including voting locations, the role of the City, if any, in facilitating candidate-resident information exchanges, election office space and staffing needs, as well as the bylaws that guide election administration, planning and voting opportunities.

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

*Local Government Act, Part 3 Electors and Election*

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

*Local Government Act, Division 17, S.158*

**Existing Policy:**

Bylaw No.11565 - 2018 General Local Elections and other voting – establishes election procedures

Bylaw No. 10970 – Use of Automated Voting Machines – permits use of voting/voter assist machines

Bylaw No. 10547 – Elector registration – establishes same day voter registration

Bylaw No. 10411 – Election Sign - regulates duration, placement, number permitted during an election

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

Funding in support of the four-year election cycle is provided through regular annual budget contributions to the Election Reserve Fund for a 2018 total of \$210,600. With a few outstanding invoices yet to be received, we anticipate the cost of election 2018 to come in slightly under budget.

**Personnel Implications:**

The 2018 election budget included funding for a six (6) month election clerk to assist in the preparation and administration of the general local election; with additional support from staff in the Office of the City Clerk.

**Communications Comments:**

Kelowna residents were provided information about voting and the voting process through traditional media, including news releases, discretionary and statutory newspaper ads, online advertising, and a voter information card which was mailed to over 57,000 Kelowna households.

Along with traditional forms of communication, the City's website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) provided voters with election information. Social media users were encouraged to share the election message through their own social media platforms and share images with the popular 'I Voted' stickers, as well as the new #KelownaVOTES social media photo frames

**Internal Circulation:**

City Clerk  
Legislative Coordinator  
Communication Advisor

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by:

K. Needham, Chief Election Officer/Deputy City Clerk

Approved for inclusion:



D. Gilchrist, City Manager

cc: Province of B.C. - Queen's Printer