

Report to Council



Date: July 12, 2021
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: By-Election 2021 Results and Ballot Account Report
Department: Office of the City Clerk

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Chief Election Officer with respect to the 2021 School Trustee By-Election results and ballot account report.

Purpose:

To report on the final results and ballot account for the Central Okanagan Public Schools 2021 School Trustee By-Election.

Background:

The City of Kelowna conducted a by-election on behalf of the Central Okanagan Public Schools (School District No. 23). The by-election was to fill a vacancy for one trustee for the remainder of the 2018-2022 term. The attached Declaration of Official Results and Ballot Account is submitted to Council as required under the *Local Government Act*.

Discussion:

General voting day was Saturday June 26 and two advance voting opportunities were held on Wednesday June 16 and Wednesday June 23. Four voting locations (Dr. Knox Middle School, Kelowna Secondary School, Okanagan Mission Secondary School, Rutland Senior Secondary) were available on general voting and advance voting was held at the Hollywood Road Education Centre. Voters also had the option to vote by mail ballot.

A total of 2,042 residents cast their vote for school trustee. This represents 1.85% of the estimated 110,175 eligible voters.

To conduct the by-election, 54 individuals were hired and trained as Presiding Election Officials, Alternate Presiding Officials, and Election Officials. Their training focused on maintaining the integrity

of the registration and voting process, the secrecy of the ballot, and the principles of fairness, accessibility, and awareness.

COVID-19 safety plans and procedures supported our commitment to keeping voters, candidates, and election staff safe during the pandemic. Protective measures included physical distancing, requirements to wear a mask, capacity limits, barriers and personal protective equipment, hand sanitizing stations, signage, frequent cleaning, and health checks. Mail ballot voting and curbside voting provided alternatives for those who were otherwise unable to enter a voting place.

Following the posting of unofficial results at the close of voting on June 26 and the determination of final results on June 30, the official results were declared on Wednesday June 30, 2021.

Conclusion:

Staff are completing the post-vote requirements for the by-election, including a review of the by-election successes, challenges, and opportunities for future election planning. Staff will begin planning for the 2022 General Local Election later this year.

Considerations applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Local Government Act s. 158(1)

Within 30 days after the declaration of official election results under section 98 for an election by acclamation or under section 146 for an election by voting, the chief election officer must submit a report of the election results to the local government.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Under the *School Act*, the School District is responsible for reimbursing the City for costs incurred to conduct the by-election. Costs are being determined and an update will be provided during the staff presentation.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Existing Policy:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

L. Bentley, Chief Election Officer/Deputy City Clerk

Approved for inclusion: S. Fleming, City Clerk

Attachment:

Declaration of Official Election Results