

2025 General Municipal Election Candidate Information Package



Nomination Day September 22, 2025

12:00 noon

Papers must be filed at Town Office

Election Day October 20, 2025

9:00 am to 8:00 pm

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been developed to assist you in your decision to run for council in the Town of Legal and to help candidates in preparing for the **Municipal Election being held on October 20, 2025.**

This information package is for your assistance and has no legislative sanction. It contains answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding election procedures, important facts candidates should be aware of and general information. It also includes some of the relevant excerpts from the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the *Municipal Government Act*. Both acts can be accessed on the Government of Alberta website at www.alberta.ca

Information Sources

“Running for Municipal Office in Alberta; A Candidate’s Guide” is attached and can also be found electronically at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca; Municipal Government Tab; Municipal Elections Tab.

Additional questions can also be answered by calling Alberta Municipal Affairs: 310-0000 or toll free 780-427-2225 or by email ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca

Each candidate is responsible for ensuring his or her compliance with the laws governing elections and for obtaining any necessary legal advice. Please refer to specific legislation when references are made to legislation in this handbook

2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Town of Legal conducts a general municipal election every four (4) years for the following municipal offices:

- Councillor (5) positions

Once the elections have been concluded, an organizational meeting will be held among the newly elected officials. Until the Mayor has been elected within the new council, the Chief Administrative Officer will chair the Organizational Meeting. Once the Mayor has taken the oath of office, the Deputy Mayor will be nominated and elected by the newly elected Members of Council.

A By-Election is held if a vacancy occurs before the term of the office expires.

All municipal elections in Alberta are conducted under the authority of the *Local Authorities Election Act*. You should be aware of the contents of this Act, as there may be severe penalties (including fines, imprisonment, and disqualification from elected office) if you are found to be in breach of its provisions.

As this information is not inclusive of all the information contained within the relevant pieces of legislation, any person wishing a complete copy of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Municipal Government Act*, the *Education Act*, or any other piece of legislation should contact:

Alberta King's Printer
Park Plaza Building, Suite 700, 10611 – 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P7
Telephone: 780-427-4952
Fax: 780-452-0668
Website: www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer

Candidate Release of Information to the Public

Throughout the election campaign, the Returning Officer receives numerous requests for candidates' contact information. These come from the news media, organizers of election forums, and the public. In addition, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs requires contact information for candidates.

For the Returning Officer to release contact information, candidates are asked to complete a Release of Candidate Information form and provide it to the Returning Officer along with their nomination paper. (Form 5, attached as *Appendix "B"*)

The contact information provided by candidates on this form will be released to the news media upon request and provided in response to any inquiries.

Qualification of a Candidate

Section 21 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* outlines qualification of a candidate. Generally, a person is eligible to be nominated as a candidate if on Nomination Day the person:

- is eligible to vote in that election.
- has been a resident of the Town of Legal for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding Nomination Day of September 22, 2025; and
- is not otherwise ineligible or disqualified.

The nomination form requires the candidate to make an affidavit saying that the candidate is eligible to be elected, not disqualified from office, that the candidate will accept the office if elected and that relevant sections of the *Local Authorities Election Act* have been read and understood. The candidate must swear or affirm the affidavit before the Returning Officer or a Commissioner for Oaths.

The person who is nominated as a candidate is responsible for ensuring that the nomination filed meets the requirements of the *Local Authorities Election Act*. The Returning Officer is not responsible for reviewing the validity of information contained in nomination papers. The Returning Officer is required to refuse a candidate's nomination form if it has not been signed by the required number of eligible electors. If a nomination is challenged, the courts will assess eligibility.

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, it is an offence to make a false affidavit and it is punishable by up to two (2) years imprisonment.

Ineligibility for Nomination as a Candidate

Sections 22 and 23 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* details instances a person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in a general municipal election.

A person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in any local authority election if on Nomination Day:

- the person is the auditor for the Town of Legal;
- the person is an employee of the Town of Legal, unless on a granted leave of absence;
- the person's property taxes are more than \$50.00 in arrears;
- the person is indebted to the Town of Legal for any debt exceeding \$500 for more than 90 days; and/or
- the person has, within the previous 10 years, been convicted of an offence under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, or the *Canada Elections Act*.

As the foregoing information does not detail all instances of ineligibility, candidates are encouraged to consult the *Local Authorities Election Act*. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the candidate is not in violation of conditions of eligibility.

Candidates Checklist

- ☐ Learn as much as possible about the office you are interested in running for.
- ☐ Visit Municipal Affairs web site at www.alberta.ca to learn about more election information.
- ☐ Complete & submit your Notice of Intent Form to be added to the Register of Candidates List. (or alternatively, submit the Notice of Intent along with your nomination papers)
- ☐ Complete & submit your Nomination Paper before 12 noon of September 22, 2025.
- ☐ Provide release of Candidate Information Form to the Returning Officer on Nomination Day
- ☐ List your Official Agent information (if applicable).
- ☐ Provide all your designated Scrutineers with a signed Appointment of Scrutineer Form for use on Election Day.
- ☐ Remove all election signs within 3 days after the election.

The checklist above is intended to address some common questions raised during previous election campaign preparations. It has no legal validity and is by no means exhaustive.

Please use the *Local Authorities Election Act* to understand your duties & responsibilities.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations will be accepted from January 2, 2025 to September 22, 2025. The returning officer or substitute returning officer will accept nomination papers at the Town Office building (5021 50 Avenue) during regular office hours up until 12:00 Noon on nomination day – September 22. Nominations cannot be accepted after noon on nomination day.

Nomination Requirements

Nomination Papers:

Every nomination of a candidate, according to Section 27 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, shall be in the prescribed form.

Required Signatures:

Your form must be signed by at least 5 people eligible to vote in the election and resident in the local jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination. To ensure validity of nominations, a candidate may submit more than the required 5 electors' signatures. **An elector is someone who:**

- is at least 18 years old;
- is a Canadian citizen; and
- has resided in Alberta for the six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding election day and the person's place of residence is the Town of Legal on Election day.

The nomination shall be accompanied with a written acceptance signed in the prescribed form by the person nominated, stating:

- that the person is eligible to be elected to the office;
- the name, address, and telephone number of the person's official agent; and
- that the person will accept the office if elected.

Candidates Acceptance:

As a candidate you must swear or affirm that:

- You are eligible to be nominated and elected
- You are not disqualified from office
- You will accept the office if you are elected
- You have not been convicted of an offence under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Election Act*, the *Canada Elections Act* within the 10 previous years.

All portions of your nomination paper must be completed, and the candidate's acceptance must be sworn or affirmed before a Commissioner for Oaths.

A Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance (Form 4) can be found attached as *Appendix "A"*.

Nomination Deposit:

A nomination deposit is required in the amount of \$50.00, as per the Town of Legal *Deposit Accompanying Nomination Papers bylaw*. (Bylaw 08-2010) The deposit must be paid with cash, money order or certified cheque. (*Appendix "F"*)

Filing of Nomination:

You, or someone acting on your behalf, must submit your completed nomination paper and deposit, to the Returning Officer during office hours. Nomination Papers are accepted starting **Thursday, January 2, 2025 to Monday, September 22, 2025 (Nomination Day) closing at 12 noon**. Please call the Town Office at 780-961-3773 to book an appointment.

Ensure both forms, Form 4: Nomination Paper & Candidate's Acceptance and Form 5: Candidate Information, are filled out. Form 4: Nomination Paper & Candidate's Acceptance must be sworn or affirmed by a Commissioner for Oaths to be valid. **Faxed or electronically submitted nominations are not acceptable.**

The person who is nominated as a candidate is responsible for ensuring that the nomination filed meets the requirements of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

After 12:00 noon on Nomination Day, a person may request to examine the filed nomination papers during regular business hours in the presence of the Returning Officer. Business hours are from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Withdrawal of Nomination

As per section 32 of the LAEA, the last day to formally withdraw a nomination is **12 p.m. on Tuesday September 23, 2025**. After this date, your name will appear on the ballot. From there, you are responsible for informing voters of your withdrawal.

To withdraw your nomination, you must submit a written statement to the Returning Officer. Withdrawals will not be accepted if you have been declared elected by acclamation. Withdrawal notices are final. If you withdraw, then change your mind, you must submit a new nomination.

A written withdrawal statement can be submitted in one of the following ways:

Email: akeane@legal.ca

Mail or in person

Town of Legal
5021 50 Street, Box 390
Legal, AB T0G 1L0

Election by Acclamation

If at the close of nominations, the number of persons nominated for any office is the same as the number required to be elected, the Returning Officer shall declare the persons nominated to be elected to the offices for which they were nominated.

CAMPAIGNING

The campaign period for the 2025 Town of Legal Municipal Election runs from October 31, 2024, to December 31, 2025. On January 1, 2026, a new four-year campaign period begins for the 2029 municipal general election and will run until December 31, 2029.

Advertising

In accordance with Section 148(5) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, candidates are not permitted to use a facsimile or representation of the ballot produced for election day in their advertising. The use of only the candidate's name and an "X" beside it does not constitute a form of the ballot.

Violations under Section 148 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* could result in a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or to imprisonment for not more than 6 months or to both fine and imprisonment.

Candidate advertising on election day is not permitted inside or on the outside of a voting station. The Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer at the voting station will remove advertising, which contravenes Section 152 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Violations under Section 152 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* could result in a fine or not more than \$500.

Placement of Signage

Election signs **do not require** a development permit from the Town of Legal.

Elections signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the landowner. For more detailed information, please see the attached "Guidelines for the Installation of Election Signs" requirements of Alberta Transportation. (*Appendix "H"*)

Campaign Contributions

In accordance with Part 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Section 147 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* addresses the rules for dealing with campaign financing and disclosure. It can be accessed by visiting www.qp.alberta.ca.

The legislation is binding on all candidates running for municipal election in Alberta.

The material that follows is provided for information only. This summary is not intended to replace the candidate's responsibility for reading and understanding this legislation, or to seek appropriate legal or accounting advice from professionals as required. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that his or her campaign complies with all provincial laws.

Limitations on Contributions

147.2 (1) Only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate,

(2) No prohibited organization and no individual ordinarily reside outside Alberta shall make a contribution to a candidate,

(3) Subject to subsection (4), no individual ordinarily resident on Alberta shall contribute in any campaign period an amount that exceeds:

a) \$5000 to any candidate for election as a Councillor,

(4) A candidate may contribute an amount of up to \$10,000 that is not reimbursed to the candidate from the candidate's campaign account by the end of the campaign period to the candidate's own campaign expenses.

(4.1) Any amount paid by a candidate for campaign expenses from the candidate's own funds that is not reimbursed to the candidate from the candidate's campaign account by the end of the campaign period, including an amount referred to in subsection (4), is a contribution to the candidate's own campaign for the purposes of this Act.

Acceptance of Contributions

147.22(1) No person shall accept a contribution or incur a campaign expense unless the person has been nominated as a candidate.

(2) No candidate and no person acting for a candidate shall accept a contribution except during the campaign period.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to the following:

(a) a person who accepts not more than \$5000 in the aggregate per year in contributions outside the campaign period.

(b) a candidate who makes a contribution of not more than \$10 000 in the aggregate per year to the candidate's own campaign from the candidate's own funds.

Duties of Candidate

147.3 (1) A candidate shall ensure that

- (a) a campaign account in the name of the candidate or the candidate's election campaign is opened at a financial institution for the purposes of the election campaign at the time of nomination or as soon as possible after the total amount of contributions first exceeds \$1000 in the aggregate.

Campaign disclosure statements

147.4 (1) On or before March 1 immediately following a general election or, in the case of a by-election, within 120 days after the by-election, a candidate shall file with the secretary of the candidate's local jurisdiction a disclosure statement in the prescribed form which must include:

- (a) the total amount of all contributions received during the campaign period that did not exceed \$50 in the aggregate from any single contributor,
- (b) the total amount contributed, together with the contributor's name and address, for each contributor whose contributions during the campaign period exceeded \$50 in the aggregate,
- (c) the total amount of money of all contributions received as referred to in section 147.22(3);
- (d) the total amount from fund-raising functions,
- (e) the total amount of other revenue,
- (f) the total amount of campaign expenses,
- (g) an itemized campaign expense report setting out the campaign expenses incurred by the candidate,
- (h) the total amount paid by the candidate out of the candidate's own funds not reimbursed from the candidate's campaign fund,
- (i) the total amount of any campaign surplus, including any surplus from previous campaigns, and
- (j) the amount of any deficit.

The prescribed form noted above is Form 26; Campaign Disclosure Statement and Financial Statement. (*see Appendix "P"*)

Campaign surplus

147.5(1) If a candidate's disclosure statement shows a surplus, the candidate, within 60 days after filing the disclosure statement with the local jurisdiction,

- a) shall, with respect to any amount that is \$1000 or more, donate an amount to a registered charity that results in the surplus being less than \$1000, and

b) may, with respect to any amount that is less than \$1000,

(i) retain all or any portion of that amount, and

(ii) donate all or any portion of that amount to a registered charity.

(2) A candidate who donates an amount to a registered charity in accordance with subsections (1)(a) or (b)(ii) shall, within 30 days after the expiration of the 60-day period referred to in subsection (a), file an amended disclosure statement showing that the surplus has been dealt with in accordance with this section.

(3) This section applies to a candidate whether or not the candidate is elected.

ELECTION DAY

Election Day

Monday, October 20, 2025 9:00am to 8:00pm

Club 60 Roses
5320A 46 Street, Legal, Alberta

Advance Vote:

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 5:30pm to 9:00pm
Town of Legal Office
5021 50 Street, Legal, Alberta

Voting

The Voting station will open at 9:00 a.m. and remain open continuously until 8:00 p.m.

The presiding deputy or another person presiding at the voting station, will immediately after the opening of the voting station, display the empty ballot box(es) to all present and then close and seal the ballot box(es). These boxes will remain closed and sealed during the hours of voting.

When the voting station is declared closed at 8:00 p.m., any elector in the voting station who wishes to vote shall be permitted to do so, but no other person shall be allowed to enter the voting station. When all the voters inside the voting station at the time the station closed have voted and left, the ballots will be counted.

Eligibility to Vote

47(1) A person is eligible to vote in an election held pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act* if the person:

- is at least 18 years old;
- is a Canadian citizen; and
- resides in Alberta and the person's place of residence is in the local jurisdiction on election day.

47(2) Subject to subsection (3) and sections 75, 77.1, 79, 81 and 83, an elector is eligible to vote only at the voting station for the voting subdivision in which the electors place of residence is located on election day.

The voter will take the ballot to the voting booth, mark it with an "X", and bring the ballot back to the deputy supervising the ballot box. The deputy will verify the initials and promptly deposit the ballot in the ballot box. The deputy may allow the elector to deposit the ballot into the ballot box.

The Town of Legal does not compile a voters list. Voter identification will be required.

An Elector may vote after producing government issued identification containing the elector's photograph, current address, and name, or one piece of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer that establishes the elector's name and current address.

OPTION FOR OFFICIAL AGENT

An official agent and/or scrutineer is an individual appointed by the candidate to represent the candidates' interests at any voting station on Election Day. Candidates may choose to act as their own agent, but only one official agent or scrutineer can represent a candidate at any time at each voting station.

68.1(1) Each person nominated as a candidate may, on the nomination form, appoint an elector to be the candidate's official agent.

(1.1) If it becomes necessary to appoint a new official agent, the candidate shall immediately notify the Returning Officer in writing of the contact information of the new official agent.

(2) A person who has, within the previous 10 years, been convicted of an offence under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Election Act*, the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* or the *Canada Elections Act* (Canada) is not eligible to be appointed as an official agent.

(3) No candidate shall act as an official agent for any other candidate.

(4) The duties of an official agent are those assigned to the official agent by the candidate.

The official agent must present identification (Form 11 Enumerator, Candidate or Official Agent Proof of Identification for Section 52 Access), attached as *Appendix "C"*, provided by the candidate, and signed by the Returning Officer to the Deputy Returning Officer at each voting station attended.

The Returning Officer will provide the required number of Form 11, if requested by the candidate.

Campaign Worker

Section 52 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states a person to whom an enumerator, a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker on behalf of a candidate has produced identification in the prescribed form indicating that the person is an enumerator, a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker shall not

- (a) obstruct or interfere with, or
- (b) cause or permit the obstruction or interference with

the free access of the enumerator, candidate, official agent, or campaign worker to each residence in a building containing 2 or more residences or to each residence in a mobile home park.

The required Campaign Worker Proof of Identification (Form 12) has been attached as *Appendix “D”*. This form, once completed, must be signed by the candidate.

Candidate’s Scrutineer

69(1) If, at any time during voting hours, a person who is at least 18 years old presents to the presiding Deputy a written notice, in a form acceptable to the Returning Officer,

- (a) signed by the candidate, and
- (b) stating that the person presenting the notice is to represent that candidate as the candidate’s scrutineer at the voting station, the person presenting the notice shall be recognized by the presiding Deputy as the scrutineer of the candidate.

(1.1) A person who has, within the previous 10 years, been convicted of an offence under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Election Act*, the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* or the *Canada Elections Act* (Canada) is not eligible to be recognized as a scrutineer.

(2) Before a person is recognized as a scrutineer, the person shall make and subscribe before the Presiding Deputy at the voting station a statement in the prescribed form (Statement of Scrutineer or Official Agent (Form 16) attached as *Appendix “E”*).

VOTING STATION

Voting Station Attendance

As stated in Section 69(3) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the presiding Deputy shall not permit a candidate to have an official agent or a scrutineer present while a candidate is present in a voting station during voting hours.

Section 69(3.1) states the presiding Deputy shall not permit a candidate to have both an official agent and a scrutineer present at the same time in a voting station during voting hours.

The same official agent or scrutineer does not have to remain at the same voting station during the whole of voting hours. Official agents and scrutineers may change voting stations throughout the day.

Section 69(5) states the presiding Deputy may designate the place or places at a voting station where a candidate, official agent or scrutineer of a candidate may observe the election procedure.

The candidate, official agent or scrutineer are not permitted to observe the marking of a ballot by an elector.

Ballot Count Attendance

Candidates, agents, or scrutineers observing the counting of ballots must be present in the voting station before 8:00 p.m., the close of voting. No one is permitted to enter the voting station after 8:00 p.m.

Candidates, official agents or scrutineers are permitted to observe the process of counting the ballots; however, Section 85(2) stipulates that only one is permitted to be present at each voting station.

Candidates, official agents or scrutineers are permitted to make objections to a ballot being counted as valid or a ballot being rejected. The Deputy records the objection.

ELECTION RESULTS

Unofficial Election Results

Following the close of voting stations at 8:00 p.m., unofficial election results will be available for the convenience of candidates and the public through the following sources:

- a) posted on the Town of Legal electronic sign on main street near the fire station.; and
- b) the Town of Legal website www.legal.ca

As it is difficult to determine when the unofficial election results will be available, your patience is requested while the election staff work towards providing the most timely and accurate results possible.

Official Election Results

At 12 noon on Friday, October 24, 2025 the Returning Officer will post the official election results at the Town Office and on the Town's website. This report will state all the votes cast

for each candidate and declare which candidates have won the election. (See Section 97, *Local Authorities Election Act*)

RECOUNTS

Recounts Before Official Results

Request for Recounts must be made prior to Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 4:00 p.m. (See Section 98, *Local Authorities Election Act*)

Returning Officer Recount

On Tuesday, following election day, the Returning Officer examines the ballot account from every voting station in conjunction with the unofficial results. If there are sufficient “valid ballots objected to” or “rejected ballots other than those on which no vote has been cast” to affect the result of the election or the Returning Officer is of the opinion that there may have been an administrative or technical error that may cause an error in the count of votes, then the Returning Officer may make a recount. Candidates who may be affected by a recount will receive 12 (twelve) hours’ notice of the recount.

Candidate or Agent Recount Request

A candidate, official agent or scrutineer may make application to the Returning Officer within 44 hours (4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 22, 2025) of the close of voting stations and no later. The application must show grounds that the Returning Officer considers reasonable for alleging that the record of the result of the count of votes at any voting station is inaccurate.

If the candidate, official agent, or scrutineer feels that a recount should be made under these circumstances, it is requested that contact be made with the Returning Officer as soon as possible.

Candidate Notification on Recount

Candidates who may be affected by a recount will receive 12 hours’ notice of the recount.

Recount Procedures

The procedure for a recount is the same as for election day. After completion of the recount, if necessary, the Returning Officer will adjust the ballot account for the voting station.

Judicial Recount

At any time within 19 days after the close of the voting stations on election day, any elector may apply to the Court by notice of motion for a recount. Sections 103 to 110 and Sections 112 to 115 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* outline the recount procedure. It is

suggested that legal advice be consulted on these sections if a judicial recount request is considered, as the Town of Legal will not provide guidance on these sections of the Act.

If, under the strict examination of the Returning Officer, it is felt that circumstances warrant a recount, certain procedures are then undertaken. Information contained here outlines what may justify a recount, how to make this request, and the formal process that follows.

RULES OF RESIDENCE

Excerpts from the *Local Authorities Election Act*

For the purposes of the Local Authorities Act, the place of residence is governed by the following rules: (Sect 48)

- (a) a person may be a resident of only one place at a time for the purposes of voting under this Act;
- (a.1) if a person has more than one residence in Alberta, that person shall, in accordance with subsection (1.1), designate one place of residence as the person's place of residence for the purposes of this Act;
- (b) the residence of a person is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent, the person intends to return;
- (c) a person does not lose the person's residence by leaving the person's home for a temporary purpose.
- (d) subject to clause (e), a student who
 - (i) attends an educational institution within or outside Alberta,
 - (ii) temporarily rents accommodation for the purpose of attending an educational institution, and
 - (iii) has family members who are residents in Alberta and with whom the student ordinarily resides when not attending an educational institution is deemed to reside with those family members.
- (e) If a person leaves the area with the intention of making the person's residence elsewhere, the person loses the person's residence within the area.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Once the official results are declared, an organizational meeting will be scheduled for the newly appointed council. The start of the meeting will be chaired by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Once the Mayor has been elected, the Mayor will continue to chair the meeting. A Deputy Mayor is then elected, and official duties and responsibilities of a municipal council begin.

All elected officials must by oath, either swear or declare that they will faithfully, diligently and to the best of their ability fulfill the duties of the office to which they have been elected.

OFFICE OF MAYOR

Term of Office

The term of office for the Mayor is one (1) year.

Duties of a Mayor (Chief Elected Official)

The Mayor is the chief elected official of the Town of Legal and has duties that encompass those of both Councillor and chief elected official.

Section 153 of the Municipal Government Act outlines general duties of Councillors, which are as follows:

- consider and promote the welfare and interests of the Town of Legal;
- develop and evaluate policies and programs of the Town of Legal;
- participate in council meetings, council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies as appointed by Council;
- obtain information about the operation of administration of the Town of Legal from the Chief Administrative Officer;
- keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until discussed at a public meeting; and
- perform any other duty or function imposed on Councillors by the Municipal Government Act, or any other enactment or by Council.

In addition to performing the duties of a Councillor, Section 154 of the Municipal Government Act outlines duties the chief elected official must:

- preside when in attendance at a council meeting unless a bylaw provides that another Councillor or other person is to preside; and
- perform any other duty imposed on a chief elected official by the Municipal Government Act or any other enactment or bylaw.

Remuneration of the Mayor

As of January 2025, remuneration is \$1081.47 per month. This fee is paid to cover all regular, and special and committee meetings, and shall be paid at the second regular meeting of each month. Meetings that are not considered meetings of Council shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours) and \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less).

Attendance Conventions, seminars, workshops, refresher courses will be remunerated at \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours), \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less). \$50.00 per day for out-of-pocket expenses will be provided for overnight sessions or for full day attendance.

Please refer to the Council & Appointed Member remuneration Rates Policy for further information including expense reimbursement. (*Appendix G*).

OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Term of Office

The term of office for a Deputy Mayor is one (1) year.

Duties of a Deputy Mayor

Section 152 of the Municipal Government Act outlines general duties of the Deputy Chief Elected Official. Generally, in the event the Mayor, through illness, absence, or other cause, is unable to perform the duties of the Mayor's office, In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor chairs Council meetings, attends ceremonies, banquets, speaking engagements and the like. If the Deputy Mayor is not available, another member of Council may be called upon to carry out these public relation duties.

Remuneration of the Deputy Mayor

As of January 2025, remuneration is \$915.08 per month. This fee is paid to cover all regular, and special and committee meetings, and shall be paid at the second regular meeting of each month. Meetings that are not considered meetings of Council shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours) and \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less).

Attendance Conventions, seminars, workshops, refresher courses will be remunerated at \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours), \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less). \$50.00 per day for out-of-pocket expenses will be provided for overnight sessions or for full day attendance.

Please refer to the Council & Appointed Member remuneration Rates Policy for further information including expense reimbursement. (*Appendix G*).

OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

Term of Office

The term of office for a Councillor is four (4) years with an annual organization meeting to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Number of Councillors

5 positions are available for the office of Councillor. Once the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected, 3 positions of Councillor remain.

Duties of a Councillor

Section 153 of the Municipal Government Act outlines general duties of Councillors, which are as follows:

- consider and promote the welfare and interests of the Town of Legal;
- develop and evaluate policies and programs of the Town of Legal;
- participate in council meetings, council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies as appointed by Council;
- obtain information about the operation or administration of the Town of Legal from the Chief Administrative Officer;
- keep matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting confidential until discussed at a public meeting; and
- perform other duties and functions imposed by the Municipal Government Act, or any other enactment or by Council.

Remuneration of Councillors

As of January 2025, remuneration is \$915.08 per month. This fee is paid to cover all regular, and special and committee meetings, and shall be paid at the second regular meeting of each month. Meetings that are not considered meetings of Council shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours) and \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less).

Attendance Conventions, seminars, workshops, refresher courses will be remunerated at \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hours), \$100.00 per half day (4 hours or less). \$50.00 per day for out-of-pocket expenses will be provided for overnight sessions or for full day attendance.

Please refer to the Council & Appointed Member remuneration Rates Policy for further information including expense reimbursement. (*Appendix G*).

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ELECTED OFFICE

Time Commitment

The Municipal Government Act provides an outline of duties for members of Council; however, the Act does not indicate the number of hours per week members should spend in performing their duties. In fact, the number of hours per week will vary from municipality to municipality and from time to time throughout the year. The amount of time spent varies from one member of Council to another depending on the number of boards, Committees and commissions he or she represents, and the scope of work required for each one. There are certain minimum duties that need to be performed should a candidate be elected to Council. These include:

Council Orientation Training

For the new Council to become fully acquainted with the scope of the Town of Legal, an orientation will be scheduled. At the time of publication of this document, the exact date and location of Council Orientation is not yet confirmed. Potential candidates will be advised once confirmed.

Section 201 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states:

201.1(1) A municipality must, in accordance with the regulations, offer orientation training to each Councillor, to be held within 90 days after the Councillor takes the oath of office.

(2) The following topics must be addressed in orientation training under subsection (1):

- a) role of municipalities in Alberta;
- b) municipal organization and functions;
- c) key municipal plans, policies and projects;
- d) roles and responsibilities of council and Councillors;
- e) the municipality's code of conduct;
- f) roles and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer;
- g) budgeting and financial administration;
- h) public participation;
- i) any other topic prescribed by the regulations.

This is a comprehensive session and is a must attend as it will assist those elected in the decision-making process.

Council Meetings

Regular meetings of Council are held every first and third Monday of the month commencing at 7:00 p.m. and ending most times by 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. For the months of July and August, council meetings are reduced to 1 each month.

A Committee of Governance & Priorities (G&P) Meeting may be held periodically throughout the year.

In preparation for the meetings, an electronic agenda package is prepared for Council members and is generally available by 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the meeting to allow time for reading and reviewing the issues.

Reading and reviewing the agenda package beforehand allows members of Council to prepare for discussions of the issues at the meeting.

Organizational Meetings are held annually no later than 2 weeks after the 3rd Monday of October (per Municipal Government Act, Section 192)

Council Budget Meetings

Each year, in addition to the regular Council meetings, Council meets to review annual financial policies and resources for the upcoming fiscal year and Town department budgets. The schedule for the 2026 budget meetings will be set with the new council. An annual operating budget must be adopted by Council no later than December 31st of the preceding year in which it relates.

As well there will be several budget meetings as we move into the Fall, a Council Planning Retreat will be discussed with Council as a whole.

Committee Meetings

Annually, at the organizational meeting, Council makes appointments of members of Council to several boards, committees, and commissions. These boards, committees and commissions may be Council committees (that is, established by Town Council) or external committees (entities which are established externally but to which Council has the authority to make appointments to).

Council members are each expected to sit on several committees. The time commitment will vary depending on each committee. (*Appendix “K”*)

Alberta Municipalities (AB Munis)

Alberta Municipalities was founded in 1905 and Ab Munis was unveiled at the 2021 Convention as the brand and trade name for the Association representing Alberta’s summer villages, villages, town, cities and specialized municipalities. The Town of Legal is a member of AB Munis.

The mission of AB Munis states that they will provide leadership in advocating local government interests to the provincial government and other organizations.

To achieve this mandate, the Association is dedicated to enhancing leadership in municipal governance by developing and maintaining responsive and professional relations with member municipalities, the provincial government, and the general public, and by providing services to member municipalities that support and strengthen their contributions to the well-being of urban communities. AM represents a unified voice to the provincial government on behalf of urban municipalities.

Every fall an AM convention is held that attracts approximately 1,200 delegates from urban councils and administration. The convention held during election years is strongly geared towards newly elected Council members. For this reason, all successful candidates are strongly encouraged to set aside time to attend this convention. The costs associated with attending this convention is provided within the municipal operating budget.

INFORMATION FROM ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Alberta Municipal Affairs hosts training sessions for prospective candidates. These sessions and the format will be announced soon. Further details will be posted on the Municipal Affairs website once training has been confirmed.

Also included in this package are several booklets published by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Much of the information has already been provided however it is advisable that these be reviewed as well.

- Candidate's Guide, Running for Municipal Office in Alberta (*Appendix "I"*)
- Municipal Councillors' Guidelines for Pecuniary Interest (*Appendix "O"*)
- What Every Councillor Needs to Know (*Appendix "N"*) (while you are not yet elected, this booklet provides excellent information on municipal operations that a candidate should be apprised of in advance of running for office).

For more information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-elections.aspx>

TOWN OF LEGAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Town of Legal has a Code of Conduct By-law to outline the roles and responsibilities of Council and Administration, and to clarify the expectations of each. (*Appendix "L"*)

TOWN OF LEGAL PROCEDURAL BYLAW

Every municipality adopts a procedural bylaw. This bylaw governs how Council meeting proceedings are undertaken. It is used to ensure orderly management and quality of interaction during Council meetings. (*Appendix "M"*)

DEFINITIONS

Below are some commonly used terms and their definitions as per the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

“By-election” means an election other than a general election or a first election;

“Bylaw” includes a resolution on which the opinion of the electors is to be obtained;

“Candidate” means an individual who has been nominated to run for election in a local jurisdiction as a councillor or school board trustee

“Council” means the council of a municipality as described in the *Municipal Government Act*;

“Councillor” means a member of council;

“Deputy” means the deputy returning officer;

“Election” means a general election, first election, by-election and a vote on a bylaw or question;

“Election day” means the day fixed for voting at an election;

“Elector” means a person eligible to vote at an election;

“Elector register” means the prescribed form on which the name of a person who has registered to vote is recorded;

“General election” means an election held for all the members of an elected authority to fill vacancies caused by the passage of time;

“Local jurisdiction” means a municipality or a school division as defined in the *Education Act*;

“Nomination day” means the day referred to in section 25 (1);

“Nomination period” means the relevant period referred to in section 25(2)

“Officer” means a returning officer or deputy;

“Official agent” means a person appointed as an official agent pursuant to section 68.1;

“Prescribed form” means the appropriate form as set out in the regulations;

“Presiding deputy” means a deputy who has been appointed as a presiding deputy pursuant to section 14, by a returning officer;

“Returning officer” means a person appointed under this Act as a returning officer and includes a person acting in the returning officer’s place;

“Scrutineer” means a person recognized as a scrutineer pursuant to section 69 or appointed pursuant to section 70;

“Spoiled ballot” means a spoiled ballot as described in section 65;

“Voting station” means the place where an election votes.

APPENDIXES

- A. Notice of Intent to Run
- B. Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance (Form 4)
- C. Candidate Financial Information (Form 5)
- D. Enumerator, Candidate of Official Agent Proof of Identification for Section 52 Access (Form 11)
- E. Campaign Worker Proof of Identification (Form 12)
- F. Statement of Scrutineer or Official Agent (Form 16)
- G. Deposit Accompanying Nomination papers (Bylaw 08-2010)
- H. Alberta Transportation Guidelines for the Installation of Election Signs
- I. A Candidates Guide – Running for Municipal Office in Alberta
- J. 2025 Council Meeting Dates Calendar
- K. List of Town Committees
- L. Council Code of Conduct (Bylaw 03-2018)
- M. Town of Legal Procedural Bylaw (Bylaw 15-2021)
- N. What Every Councillor needs to know Handbook
- O. Pecuniary Interest for Municipal Councillors
- P. Campaign Disclosure Statement & Financial Statement (Form 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Town of Legal, Province of Alberta

ELECTION DATE: Monday, October 20, 2025

An individual intending to run for Councillor must submit this form to the Returning Officer before accepting campaign contributions or incurring campaign expenses as set out in **Part 5.1 Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure** of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the form below.
2. File the completed form with the Returning Officer by **one of three ways**:
 - drop off at Town of Legal Main Office at 5021 50 Street, Legal, **or**
 - mail to Town of Legal Elections P.O. Box 390, Legal AB, T0G 1L0, **or**
 - email to akeane@legal.ca
1. If there are any changes to the information below, notify the Returning Officer in writing within 48 hours by submitting a revised Candidate Financial Information form.

I am intending to run for Town of Legal Councillor.

Candidate's full name: _____

Candidate's complete address and postal code: _____

Candidate's Phone number(s): _____

Candidate's Email address: _____

Address of place(s) where Candidate records are maintained (*records must be kept for a period of 3 years following election day*):

Address of place(s) where communications may be sent:

Name(s) and address(es) of the financial institution(s) where campaign contributions will be deposited:

Name of financial institution

Address of financial institution

Name(s) of signing authorities for the financial depository above:

By entering your name on the signature line below, you are indicating that the information on this form is accurate.

Candidate Name

Candidate Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY - Returning Officer's Acceptance

Returning office signals receipt by signing this form:

Signature of Returning Officer

Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance

Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 12, 21, 22, 23, 23.1, 27, 28,
47, 68.1, 151, 158.3, Part 5.1)
Education Act (Sections 4(4), 74)

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Business Title/Organization Business Phone Number

Address City or Town Province Postal Code

LOCAL JURISDICTION: , PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

We, the undersigned electors of ,
Name of Local Jurisdiction and Ward (if applicable)
nominate of
Candidate's Surname and Given Names

Complete Address and Postal Code

as a candidate at the election about to be held for the office of
Office Nominated for
of .
Name of Local Jurisdiction

The candidate's local political party or slate is (if applicable).

Provide signatures of at least **5 ELECTORS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE** in this election in accordance with sections 27 and 47 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable). If a city or a board of trustees under the *Education Act* passes a bylaw under section 27(2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, then the signatures of up to 100 electors eligible to vote may be required.

Printed Name of Elector	Complete Address and Postal Code of Elector	Signature of Elector

CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE

I, the above-named candidate, solemnly swear (affirm) that

I am eligible under sections 21 and 47 (and section 12, in the case of summer villages) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable) to be elected to the office,

I am not otherwise disqualified under section 22, 23 or 23.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*,

I will accept the office if elected,

I have read sections 12, 21, 22, 23, 23.1, 27, 28, 47, 68.1 and 151 and Part 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable) and understand their contents,

I am appointing _____

Name, Contact Information or Complete Address and Postal Code, and Telephone Number of Official Agent

as my official agent (if applicable),

I have provided a criminal record check with my nomination package (if applicable),

I will read and abide by the municipality's code of conduct if elected (if applicable), and

The electors who have signed this nomination paper are eligible to vote in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the *Education Act* and resident in the local jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination.

(Print name as it should appear on the ballot.)

Candidate's Surname

Candidate's Given Names
(may include nicknames, but not titles, i.e. Mr., Ms, Dr.)

SWORN (AFFIRMED) before me

at the _____ of _____ ,

in the Province of Alberta,

this _____ day of _____ , 20 _____ .



Signature of Candidate

Signature of Returning Officer or
Commissioner for Oaths

Commissioner for Oaths Stamp

**IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SIGN A FALSE AFFIDAVIT
OR A FORM THAT CONTAINS A FALSE STATEMENT**

RETURNING OFFICER'S ACCEPTANCE

Returning Officer signals acceptance by signing this form:

Signature of Returning Officer

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Business Title/Organization _____ Business Phone Number _____

Address _____ City or Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Candidate's Full Name _____

Candidate's Address and Postal Code _____

Address(es) of Place(s) where Candidate Records are Maintained _____

Name(s) and Address(es) of Financial Institutions where Campaign Contributions will be Deposited (if applicable)

Name(s) of Signing Authorities for each Depository Listed Above (if applicable)

Where there is any change in the above mentioned information, the candidate shall notify the local jurisdiction in writing within 48 hours of such changes by submitting a completed information form.

**CANDIDATE OR OFFICIAL AGENT PROOF OF
IDENTIFICATION FOR ACCESS**

Local Authorities Election Act
(Section 52)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: _____, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

ELECTION DATE: _____

VOTING SUBDIVISION OR WARD (If applicable): _____

For the purposes of access authorized under section 52 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, this constitutes identification

for _____
Name

of _____
Complete Address and Postal Code

serving in the capacity of _____
Office

This appointment is in effect for the 20 _____ campaign period.

Section 52 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that a person to whom a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker on behalf of a candidate has produced identification in the prescribed form, indicating that the person is a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker, shall not

- (a) obstruct or interfere with, or
- (b) cause or permit the obstruction or interference with

the free access of the candidate, official agent or campaign worker to each residence in a building containing 2 or more residences or to each residence in a mobile home park.

Signature of Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer

Signature of Candidate or Official Agent named above

**CAMPAIGN WORKER PROOF OF
IDENTIFICATION***Local Authorities Election Act*
(Section 52)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: _____, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

ELECTION DATE: _____

VOTING SUBDIVISION OR WARD (If applicable): _____

For the purposes of access authorized under section 52 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, this constitutes identificationfor _____
Nameof _____
Complete Address and Postal Codeserving in the capacity of _____
Office

This appointment is in effect for the 20 _____ campaign period.

Section 52 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that a person to whom a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker on behalf of a candidate has produced identification in the prescribed form, indicating that the person is a candidate, an official agent or a campaign worker, shall not

- (a) obstruct or interfere with, or
- (b) cause or permit the obstruction or interference with

the free access of the candidate, official agent or campaign worker to each residence in a building containing 2 or more residences or to each residence in a mobile home park.

Candidate's Signature_____
Campaign Worker's Signature

Statement of Scrutineer or Official Agent

Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 16(2), 68.1, 69, 70)

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Business Title/Organization _____ Business Phone Number _____

Address _____ City or Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

LOCAL JURISDICTION: _____, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

ELECTION DATE (OR VOTE ON A BYLAW OR QUESTION): _____

I, _____, _____
Name of Scrutineer or Official Agent

of _____
Complete Address and Postal Code

in the Province of _____, am at least 18 years of age and,
Name of Province

(a) For the purposes of an election, will act as scrutineer on behalf of _____
Name of Candidate
for the office of _____
Office for which Candidate was Nominated

OR

(b) For the purposes of a vote on a bylaw, will act as scrutineer for those persons who are interested in

(Check [✓] One) ☐ promoting the passing of Bylaw No. _____

☐ opposing the passing of Bylaw No. _____

OR

(c) For the purposes of a vote on a question, will act as scrutineer on behalf of those persons who are interested in

(Check [✓] One) ☐ voting in the **positive** on the question set out.

☐ voting in the **negative** on the question set out.

AND I will in all respects maintain and aid in maintaining the absolute secrecy of the vote.

Signature of Scrutineer or Official Agent

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SIGN A FALSE STATEMENT

BY-LAW 08-2010
DEPOSIT ACCOMPANYING NOMINATION PAPER
TOWN OF LEGAL, ALBERTA

BY-LAW 08-2010, BEING A BY-LAW OF THE TOWN OF LEGAL, TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LEGAL TO REQUIRE THAT EVERY NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL IN ANY MUNICIPAL ELECTION BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DEPOSIT.

WHEREAS, Section 29(1) of the Local Authorities Election Act, Chapter cL-22 s29 R.S.A., 2000 allow that an elected authority may by by-law require that every nomination be accompanied by a deposit in the amount fixed in the by-law; and

WHEREAS, Section 29(2) of the Local Authorities Election Act, Chapter cL-21 s29 R.S.A., 2000 indicates that the amount fixed in a by-law may not exceed \$100; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Legal Council deem it to be expedient and proper to impose a deposit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- 1 A fee of \$50.00 shall be required to accompany every nomination for elected office in the Town of Legal.
- 2 The deposit shall accompany the nomination paper when filed and shall be provided in cash, by certified cheque or cash order or by money order.
- 3 The candidate's deposit shall be returned to him
 - a) if he is declared elected,
 - b) if he obtains a number of votes at least equal to 1/2 of the total number of votes cast for the candidate elected with the least number of votes, or
 - c) if he withdraws his name as a candidate in accordance with Section 32.

1 If a candidate dies before the closing of the voting stations on Election Day, the sum deposited by him shall be returned to his estate.

2 If a candidate does not obtain the number of votes described in subsection (2) (b), the deposit shall be paid into the general revenue of the local jurisdiction for which the deposit requirement has been established.

This by-law shall take effect on the day of the final reading thereof.

READ a first time this 19th day of July 2010, A.D.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

READ a second time this 19th day of July 2010, A.D.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

READ a third time and finally passed this 19th day of July 2010, A.D.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

Sign Removal

All election signs must be removed three days after the election. The removal shall include the sign panel, supporting structure and any tie wiring used to install and support the sign.

When the removal of an election sign is necessary due to safety or operational concerns, the appropriate Alberta Transportation district office will notify the responsible campaign office to take the required action. Failure to respond within the specified time will result in the sign being removed. Signs will be stored at the nearest highway maintenance facility or Alberta Transportation district office. The campaign office will be notified to arrange to have the signs picked up.

Signs that pose immediate hazard to the public will be removed immediately by Alberta Transportation's highway maintenance contractors without notification.

Alberta Transportation is not responsible for any signs damaged during the removal process. The campaign office is responsible for installing and removing election signs.

For more information contact the nearest Alberta Transportation district office.

Athabasca District Office
Unit #2, Jewell Building, 3603 – 53rd Street T9S 1A9
Phone: 780-675-2624 Fax: 780-675-5855
transdevelopmentathabasca@gov.ab.ca

Calgary District Office
2nd Floor, Willowglen Business Park, 803 Manning Road N.E. T2E 7M8
Phone: 403-297-6311 Fax: 403-297-7682
transdevelopmentcalgary@gov.ab.ca

Edson District Office
Rm. 202, 111 - 54th St., Edson T7E 1T2 Phone: 780-723-8250 Fax:
780-723-8387
transdevelopmentedson@gov.ab.ca

Fort McMurray District Office
6th Floor, West Tower, Box 9, 9915 Franklin Ave. Fort McMurray T9H 2K4
Phone: 780-743-7376 Fax: 780-743-7215
Application.Permit.FM@gov.ab.ca

Grande Prairie District Office
1401, Provincial Bldg., 10320 99th St. Grande Prairie T8V 6J4
Phone: 780-538-5310 Fax: 780-538-5384
transdevelopmentgrandeprairie@gov.ab.ca

Hanna District Office
P.O. Box 1300, Hanna T0J 1P0
Phone: 403-854-5550 Fax: 403-854-3086
transdevelopmenthanna@gov.ab.ca

Lethbridge District Office
3rd Flr, Admin. Bldg., 909 3rd Ave. N, Lethbridge T1H 0H5
Phone: 403-381-5426 Fax: 403-382-4057
transdevelopmentlethbridge@gov.ab.ca

Peace River District Office
Bag 900, Box 29, 9621 96 Ave., 3rd Floor Peace River T8S 1T4
Phone: 780-624-6280 Fax: 780-624-2440
transdevelopmentpeacriver@gov.ab.ca

Red Deer District Office
401, 4920 - 51st St, Red Deer T4N 6K8 Phone: 403-340-5166 Fax:
403-340-4876
transdevelopmentreddeer@gov.ab.ca

Stony Plain District Office
Rm. 223, Provincial Bldg., 4709 44th Ave. Stony Plain T7Z 1N4
Phone: 780-963-5711 Fax: 780-963-7420
transdevelopmentstonyplain@gov.ab.ca

Vermilion District Office
Box 28, 4701-52nd St., Vermilion T9X 1J9 Phone: 780-853-8178
Fax: 780-853-8270
transdevelopmentvermilion@gov.ab.ca

Guidelines for the Installation of Election Signs



Government
of Alberta ■

Election Signs Guidelines

Those installing election signs on Alberta highways need to follow these guidelines:

1. For signs located within highway rights-of-way, the maximum sign size will be one and a half square metres. There is no size restriction for signs located on private property.
2. Election signs are temporary signs and are only permitted from the date the election is called until three days after the election.
3. Signs of the following types will **not** be allowed:
 - signs that display an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light
 - signs that are floodlit which could cause visual distractions to the motoring public
 - signs that have any moving or rotating parts
 - signs that imitate the wording of a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign, such as stop, stop ahead or yield.
 - signs that imitate or resemble the visual appearance of a traffic control device (e.g., stop sign).

If a sign is in contravention of these guidelines, a peace officer or a person authorized by the road authority may, without notice or compensation, remove the sign, and may enter onto privately owned land to do so.

Location Guidelines

In general, election signs shall be placed as far from the shoulder line as practical, always allowing the travelling public to have an unobstructed view of the roadway.

The following shall be considered when placing election signs.

- Signs must be placed no closer than two metres from the edge of pavement (or, in the case of gravel roads, no closer than two metres from the shoulder of the road).
- During winter conditions, there is a high probability that signs less than six metres from the road will be either covered with snow or damaged during snow removal and sanding operations.
- No election signs will be allowed within the median of a divided provincial highway.
- No election signs shall be mounted on highway signs or sign posts. These signs will be removed immediately.
- No election signs shall be placed in or within 500 metres of construction zones.
- No election signs shall be placed that obstruct a motorist's view of an intersection in an urban area or within 250 metres of an intersection in a rural area.



Safety Precautions

Those installing election signs must use safety precautions to ensure their safety and prevent driver distraction.

All persons working near the highway shall wear reflective vests and bright clothing.

Election signs shall be installed during daylight hours only.

Vehicles used for transporting election signs must be parked so as to minimize the impact to the travelling public (preferably on an approach), as far as possible from the travel lanes, and have four-way hazard warning signals operating at all times.



A Candidate's Guide

Running for Local Elected Office in Alberta

A Candidate's Guide: Running for Elected Office | Municipal Affairs

© 2025 Government of Alberta | July 10, 2025

The Government of Alberta and Municipal Affairs will not be liable for any damages that result from the use of this guide. While Municipal Affairs attempts to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guide, a municipality and/or candidate may wish to obtain advice from a lawyer, in order to ensure the correct steps are taken throughout the election process. Municipal Affairs and the Government of Alberta do not warrant or make any other representations regarding the use, accuracy, applicability, or reliability of this guide. It is important to recognize that this guide has been developed as a reference for, and as an explanatory document to the *Local Authorities Election Act*. This guide is not legal advice, and it cannot be used in place of consulting with a lawyer.

This guide cannot anticipate every aspect, circumstance, or situation that municipalities or candidates may encounter while working through their specific election process. If a municipality or candidate needs help finding a lawyer, please visit the Law Society of Alberta website. Should this guide conflict with the *Municipal Government Act*, or the *Local Authorities Election Act* in word or interpretation, the legislation shall prevail.

This publication is issued under the Open Government Licence – Alberta (<http://open.alberta.ca/licence>).

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Introduction

Local elections are the foundation of democratic local governments in Alberta.

Locally elected officials are charged with making decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, and the business community. The local election process enables residents to determine the small group of individuals who will comprise the **elected authority** (municipal **council** or school **board**), which makes collective decisions and governs on their behalf following a general local election.

General elections for mayors, **councillors**, and school **trustees** in Alberta are held every four years. **Local jurisdictions** (a municipality or school division) hold **by-elections** to fill vacancies that occur between **general elections**.

This guide provides those considering running for elected office, election officials, chief financial officers, and the public with comprehensive, detailed information about the local elections process. It provides general information about local elections in Alberta, including the key participants in local elections, the key administrators in local elections, elected officials' responsibilities, and who is eligible to run for office.

The major elements of the local elections process – the call for nominations, election campaigns, **candidate** representatives, and what happens on **election day** are also described in this guide.

Each **local jurisdiction** is responsible for running its own local election. Municipal governments may run school **trustee** elections on behalf of school divisions. Municipal **councils** and school **boards** appoint a **returning officer** to run the local election in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)* and the **local jurisdiction's** election bylaw. The elections legislation contains provisions that must be consistently applied to all local elections; however, the legislation is also flexible enough that **local jurisdictions** are able to make choices about how to conduct elections in a manner that suits local circumstances (e.g. offering special ballots or requiring a nomination deposit)

This guide is not legally binding, and we recommend you obtain a copy of the *LAEA*, and other relevant statutes and regulations.

Terms in **boldface** font are further explained in Appendix B: Glossary of Terms.

Legislation Governing Local Elections

Copies of all legislation can be obtained through the Alberta King's Printer, <https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/>, or 780-427-4952.

Local Authorities Election Act

The *LAEA* is the main legislation that guides the conduct of a local **election** or **by-election**.

All definitions, procedures, and processes outlined in this guide are from the *LAEA*. Should you require further clarification on any definitions, procedures, or processes you are encouraged to review and consult the legislation, ask the **returning officer** in your **local jurisdiction**, or get independent legal advice.

Regulations

All election forms required by legislation can be found in the Local Authorities Election Forms Regulation on the Government of Alberta website, or by contacting your municipality.

The Expense Limits Regulation establishes **campaign expense** limits for **candidates** for municipal **council**, **local political parties**, **slates**, and **third-party** advertisers. Expense limits vary depending on the year in the election cycle.

The Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation creates rules for **local political parties** and **slates** related to eligibility and registration, financial **contributions**, financial disclosures, and surplus and deficit matters. The regulation enabled **local political parties** and **slates** only for the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

For more information, please review the [Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\) 2024-2025 | Alberta.ca](#) publications.

Municipal Government Act

The *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* is the primary legislation that empowers municipalities to shape their communities. It regulates how municipalities are funded and how, as local governments, they should govern and plan for growth.

Education Act

The *Education Act* specifies goals for Alberta's Early Childhood Services to Grade 12 (ECS-12) education system and identifies the roles and responsibilities of school **boards** and school **trustees**.

Local Elections Generally

Voting Opportunities

Election Day

Election day is the primary opportunity for **candidates** seeking office as a mayor, **councillor**, or school **board trustee** to be elected to office by eligible **electors**. **Voting stations** for most **local jurisdictions** are open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on **election day** unless a bylaw has been passed to allow for an earlier opening. In summer villages, **voting stations** are open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. unless a bylaw has been passed to allow for an earlier opening.

Advance Voting

Local jurisdictions may provide for an advance voting opportunity to be held up to 24 hours prior to **election day**, to allow eligible **electors** who may not otherwise be able to vote on general voting day to cast their ballots. Municipalities with populations greater than 5,000 are required to hold at least one advance voting opportunity.

Special Ballots

Special ballots (mail-in ballots) provide **electors** who are unable to attend an advance or **election day** voting opportunity to vote in local elections. **Local jurisdictions** may provide for special ballot voting in their election bylaw or by passing a resolution.

Other Voting Opportunities

Local jurisdictions may provide other voting opportunities to eligible **electors** who may not otherwise be able to attend a voting place to cast their ballots during local elections. These voting opportunities are generally held in hospitals, long-term care facilities, or other **electors'** residences where **electors'** mobility may be impaired. Only designated **electors** are eligible to vote at these voting opportunities.

Key Participants

Electors

Except for summer villages, the right to vote in local elections in Alberta is conferred on individuals ordinarily resident in the **local jurisdiction**. An **elector** must be at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen; reside in Alberta, and the person's place of residence must be located in the **local jurisdiction**, and **ward** if any, on **election day**.

In summer villages, eligible **electors** must be:

- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and a resident in the **local jurisdiction** on **election day**; or
- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and named on a certificate of title as a person who owns property within the summer village; or
- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and the **spouse** or adult interdependent partner of a person who is named on a certificate of title as a person who owns property within the summer village.

NOTE: For information about **elector** eligibility in Métis settlement elections and in Indian reservation band elections in Alberta, please visit [Métis Relations | Alberta.ca](#), and [Indian Band Election Regulations](#) respectively.

NOTE: For information about elector eligibility in Jasper, please visit [Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\) 2025: Jasper Residency and Eligibility Requirements](#).

Candidates

The term “**candidate**” means, except in Part 5.1 of the *LAEA*, an individual who has been nominated to run for election in a **local jurisdiction** as a **councillor** or school **board trustee**.

In Part 5.1 - Election Finances and **Contributions** Disclosure, the term “**candidate**” means:

- an individual who has been nominated to run for election in a **local jurisdiction** as a **councillor** or school **board trustee**; and
- an individual who intends to be nominated to run for election in a **local jurisdiction** as a **councillor** or as a school **board trustee** that has given written notice in accordance with Section 147.22 of the *LAEA*.

Chief Financial Officer

A chief financial officer is a representative that **candidates** may engage and a representative that **third-party** advertisers are legally required to have during an election campaign.

This individual ensures that the financial aspects of the **candidate's** election campaign and the **third-party** advertiser's election advertising campaign comply with the *LAEA*.

Official Agents

Candidates may appoint an **official agent** to represent them during the election process. The **official agent** may act as a campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on a **candidate's** election campaign.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers may represent **candidates** at voting opportunities by observing voting procedures and scrutinizing the ballot-counting process after the close of voting on **election day**. **Scrutineers** must meet the eligibility requirements in Section 69 of the *LAEA* and must be appointed by the **candidate** in writing.

Third-Party Advertisers

A **third-party** advertiser is an individual or organization that sponsors election advertising independently from **candidates**. **Third-party** advertising includes election advertising to promote or oppose a **candidate**, and/or on an issue with which a **candidate** may associated, during the **election advertising period**.

Third-party advertisers must be independent from **candidates** when engaging in election advertising. **Third-party** advertisers must register with the **local jurisdiction**, or the Provincial Registrar if engaging in **election advertising** in more than 10 **local jurisdictions**, before conducting advertising during the **election advertising period**, which starts May 1 and ends at the end of **election day**.

Third-parties interested in engaging in **election advertising** in more than 10 **local jurisdictions** can be directed to the appointed Provincial Registrar at:

Executive Director
Municipal Capacity and Sustainability Branch
Municipal Affairs
17th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 4L4
Phone: 780-427-2225 (dial 310-000 first for toll-free)
Email: ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca

See Part 8 of the *LAEA* and Module 4 of the Returning Officer manual for more information on **third-party** advertising and disclosure requirements.

Local Political Parties and Slates

The *LAEA* allows for the creation of local political parties (LPP) and slates only in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary for the 2025 general election, and for a candidate's affiliation with an LPP or slate to be reflected on the ballot.

Candidates, LPPs, and slates must comply with applicable registration, endorsement, interaction rules, and financing rules for contributions, campaign expenses, disclosures, and other provisions set out in the Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation (LPPSR) and the Expense Limits Regulation.

A fact sheet with more information is available at [Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\) 2024 and 2025: Local Political Parties and Slates](#).

Key Election Roles

Election Officials

Municipal **councils** and school **boards** appoint a **returning officer** to administer local elections. If a **council** does not appoint a **returning officer**, the duty falls to the **chief administrative officer (CAO)** of the municipality or the **secretary** of a school division by default. A senior local government employee or a private contractor hired to conduct the election on the local government's behalf may be appointed to be the **returning officer**.

Generally, **returning officers** are responsible for overseeing all local election administration activities, including receiving nomination documents, administering voting opportunities, counting ballots, and declaring election results.

The **returning officer** is also responsible for appointing and training **deputy returning officers** and any additional election officials required to conduct local elections. The **returning officer** must conduct the election in accordance with the *LAEA* and the **local jurisdiction's** election bylaw.

Election officials must complete an oath or statement confirming they will be independent and impartial when performing their duties.

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Alberta Municipal Affairs oversees the *MGA*, *LAEA*, and associated regulations. Contact the ministry for answers to questions about the material contained in this guide. Ministry staff can also provide additional information about local elections administration in Alberta.

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Municipal Capacity and Sustainability Branch
Phone: 780-427-2225 (in Alberta, toll-free dial 310-0000 first)
Email: ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca
Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-elections-overview>

Alberta Education

Contact Alberta Education to answer questions or provide clarification on the provisions in the *Education Act* or the *LAEA* as they relate to elections for school **board trustees**,

Alberta Education
Business Operations and Stakeholder Support Branch
Phone: 780-427-2055 (in Alberta, toll-free dial 310-0000 first)
Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/school-board-elections-guide>

Elections Alberta

Elections Alberta is the non-partisan and independent Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration of the provincial electoral process in Alberta and the campaign financing and **third-party** advertising rules for local elections under the *LAEA*.

Elections Alberta administers, investigates, and enforces the campaign financing and **third-party** advertisers' disclosure requirements including expense and **contribution** limits, and election advertising rules under the *LAEA*. Elections Alberta also has the authority to conduct investigations of any matter that might contravene the legislation and levy administrative monetary penalties for non-compliance with the *LAEA*. Please refer to Part 5.1 and Part 8 of the *LAEA* for more information about campaign financing and **third-party** advertising rules.

Elections Alberta
Phone: 780-427-7191
Email: info@elections.ab.ca

About Being an Elected Official

Term of Office

A person elected under the *LAEA*, unless otherwise disqualified from remaining in office or resigning, holds office from the beginning of the organizational meeting of the **elected authority** following the **general election** to immediately before the beginning of the organizational meeting of the **elected authority** after the next **general election**.

A person elected to an **elected authority** to fill a vacancy caused other than by the passage of time holds office from when the person takes the oath of office for the remainder of the period the person's predecessor would have held office had that predecessor continued in office.

Time Commitment

Holding local office can represent a significant time commitment. During the term of office, elected officials will be required to attend:

- regular and special meetings of the **council** or school **board**;
- **council** or **board** committee meetings;
- meetings of other **boards** and agencies to which they are appointed as a **council** or school **board** representative;
- conferences, conventions, seminars, and workshops for training and discussion (legislation requires mandatory **councillor** orientation training and emergency management training to be completed shortly after taking office – see the What Every Councillor Needs to Know resource at Alberta.ca for more information); and
- other events promoting your municipality or school division.

Time should also be spent reading agenda material and talking with residents, the **CAO** or **board secretary** and other relevant stakeholders. This work will all be part of the necessary preparation for meetings so elected officials can participate in an informed way and contribute to collective decision-making.

Remuneration

Elected officials generally receive remuneration or other financial compensation for the time and energy they have devoted to their community. Check with your **local jurisdiction** office to find out about remuneration for elected officials, as remuneration amounts are set by each **elected authority**.

Roles and Responsibilities of a Municipal Elected Official

As a member of **council**, you will have the opportunity to significantly influence the future of your community. Your effectiveness as a member of **council** depends on your ability to be an active member of the team and to respectfully persuade the other members of **council** to adopt and support your view. Decisions of **council** may only be made by resolution or bylaw and must be made at public meetings, at which a quorum is present. As an elected official, you will also have to find the balance between representing the views of those who elected you and considering the best interests of the municipality as a whole.

As an individual member of **council**, you will not have the power to commit your municipality to any expenditure or to direct the activities of the municipal employees. Any promise you make as a part of your election campaign that involves municipal expenditures or the activities of the **CAO** can only be carried out if you can obtain the support of your fellow **council** members to carry out that promise by passing a resolution or bylaw at a duly called **council** meeting.

The Canadian Constitution grants responsibility for municipal institutions to provincial governments. Through legislation, the Alberta Legislative Assembly has delegated some of its authority to municipal **councils**. The legislation you will refer to most often is the *MGA* as this is the legislation that allows for many decisions that **council** can make.

In accordance with Section 7 of the *MGA*, a municipal **council** may pass legislation in the form of municipal bylaws. These bylaws remain in effect until they are amended or repealed. You will not be starting with a blank slate and creating your ideal municipality from scratch. If you are running with some kind of reform in mind, you will have to become familiar with what exists, how it has been created – by bylaw, resolution, or policy – and why it exists before you will be able to start discussing proposed changes.

Municipalities often make local bylaws available to the public through their municipal websites. Otherwise, you can ask for copies at the municipal office.

Administration of a Municipality

Elected officials perform a role that is distinct from the role of the **CAO** and other local government staff. Elected officials are decision-makers and set strategic policies and priorities for the municipality – they do not implement policies and decisions or otherwise administer the local government.

It is the job of the administration to implement **council's** policy direction. Alberta municipalities have competent and dedicated administrators. The **CAO** is the only direct employee of **council**, and you will rely on the support, advice, and assistance of your **CAO** if you are to be an effective member of **council**. The **CAO's** training, experience, and understanding of how and why things have developed the way they have will be an important resource for you.

At a professional level, elected officials do not have regular contact with local government staff, nor do elected officials perform, or supervise, the roles or duties assigned to members of administration.

How else can I prepare?

The best way to find out what the job of an elected official is all about is to spend some time reading relevant documents of the **local jurisdiction** and talking to current members of the **elected authority**. You may also wish to:

- familiarize yourself with local bylaws and municipal legislation;
- read meeting agendas and minutes;
- observe meetings from the gallery; and
- talk to administrative staff to find out what other information is available.

It is common practice in many **local jurisdictions** to publish a prospective **candidate's** information guide. These guides will provide valuable insight into time commitments, practices, and expectations of holding office in that **local jurisdiction**. Researching in advance will help you in your campaign and prepare you for assuming office.

Are you qualified to become a nominated candidate?

LAEA
s.21(1)

To become a nominated **candidate**, you must be at least 18 years of age on **nomination day**, a Canadian citizen, and you must have been a resident of the **local jurisdiction** for the six consecutive months immediately preceding **nomination day**. Also, you must not be otherwise ineligible or disqualified under Section 22 of the *LAEA*.

NOTE: For eligibility requirements for Jasper candidates, please visit [Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\) 2025: Jasper Residency and Eligibility Requirements](#).

LAEA
s.21(1)

Qualification Requirements in a Ward System

In a **local jurisdiction** (other than a city) with a **ward** system, you must be a resident of the **ward** or the electoral division in which you intend to run for the six consecutive months immediately preceding **nomination day**.

LAEA
s.21(2)

Qualification Requirements in a City with a Ward System

In a city with a **ward** system, it is required that you have been a resident of the city for six months immediately preceding **nomination day**, not necessarily the **ward** in which you wish to run.

LAEA
s.12(b)
s.12(h)
s.47

Qualification Requirements in a Summer Village

To qualify for nomination as a **councillor** in a summer village, a person is not required to be a resident of the summer village but must be entitled to vote in the summer village election and have been a resident of Alberta for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding **election day**. Prospective **candidates** must also meet the voter eligibility requirements and be:

- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and a resident in the **local jurisdiction** on **election day**;
- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and named on a certificate of title as a person who owns property within the summer village; or
- 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and the **spouse** or adult interdependent partner of a person who is named on a certificate of title as a person who owns property within the summer village.

LAEA
s.22(1)

Ineligibility for Nomination

No one is eligible to become a **candidate** under any of the following circumstances:

- if you are the auditor of the **local jurisdiction**;
- if your property taxes are more than \$50 in arrears (excluding indebtedness on current taxes, and indebtedness for arrears of taxes for which the person has entered into a consolidation agreement with the municipality);
- if you are in default for any other debt to the **local jurisdiction** equal to or exceeding \$500 for more than 90 days;
- if within the previous 10 years, you have been convicted of an offense under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Election Act*, *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, or the *Canada Elections Act*;
- if on **nomination day** you are employed by the Office of the Ombudsman (unless you take a leave of absence);
- if you are a judge, Member of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada, or Member of the Legislative Assembly; or
- if you have been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for five or more years, or of an offence under Section 123, 124 or 125 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* (an offence related to municipal corruption, influencing a municipal official, or financial abuse of an elected office).

MGA
s.174(1)(c)

MGA
s.174(1)(e)

LAEA
s.22(1.2)

A person will be ineligible for nomination if they have failed to comply with the campaign finance and disclosure requirements of the *LAEA* and:

- the **secretary** or **CAO** transmitted or presented a report in respect to that person; and
- the **court** did not dispense with or extend the time for compliance.

A person is deemed to be ineligible under these circumstances for either an eight-year period following the day that a report was transmitted by the **secretary**, or a three-year period following the day the disclosure statement was filed with the municipality (whichever period expires first).

LAEA
s.22(1.1)
s.22(5)
s.22(5.1)

If you are a municipal employee and you wish to run for local office, or a school **board** employee running for election as **trustee** of a school **board**, you must take a leave of absence without pay as outlined in the LAEA. This point does not apply if you perform duties for a jurisdiction in a volunteer capacity. You may notify your employer on or after January 1 in the election year (on or after the day **council** passes a resolution setting **election day** in the case of a **by-election**) but before the last working day prior to **nomination day**. Any employee who requests a leave of absence without pay in accordance with those conditions must be granted that leave.

Nominations

LAEA
s.147.1(1)(b)

What is the Campaign Period?

The term “**campaign period**” means:

- (i) in the case of a **general election**, the period beginning on January 1 of the year immediately following a **general election** and ending on December 31 immediately following the next **general election**; and
- (ii) in the case of a **by-election**, the period beginning on the day after the resolution or bylaw is passed to set the **election day** for the **by-election** and ending 60 days after the **by-election**;

For the 2025 **general election**, the **campaign period** started on October 31, 2024 (with the proclamation of LAEA amendments made in spring 2024 via Bill 20) and will end on December 31, 2025. On January 1, 2026, the four-year **campaign period** for the 2029 **general election** will begin.

LAEA
s.147.22

Written Notice of Intent to be Nominated

Individuals who intend to be nominated or who have been nominated to run for election must give written notice to the **local jurisdiction** in which they have been or intend to be nominated. Written notice must include:

- the full name, address, and contact information of the individual;
- the address of the place(s) where records are maintained, and of the place to which communications may be sent;
- the names and addresses of the financial institutions to be used as depositories for campaign **contributions**; and
- the names of the signing authorities for each financial institution to be used for campaign **contributions**.

No individual and no person acting for the individual shall accept a **contribution** or incur a **campaign expense** unless the individual has given written notice. No **candidate** or person acting for a **candidate** may accept a **contribution** for an election outside the **campaign period** for that election.

Local jurisdictions must maintain a register of **candidates** who have given notice under Section 147.22. The register must be made publicly available on the **local jurisdiction's** website until December 31 immediately following a **general election**, or 60 days following a **by-election**.

In accordance with Sections 28(6.1) and (6.2) of the *LAEA*, the register must be made available in a partial or redacted form with the mailing address of the **candidate** and **candidate's** agent, and any personal information that the **returning officer, deputy, or secretary** believes would compromise the personal safety of the **candidate**, removed. If a criminal record check was filed with a **candidate's** nomination papers, the results must not be withheld or redacted.

What is the Nomination Period & When is Nomination Day?

LAEA
s.25(1)
s.25(2)(a)

In the case of **general elections**, **election day** occurs on the third Monday in October every four years. Candidates can begin to file nomination papers on January 1 in the year of the election, up until **nomination day**, four weeks prior to **election day**. If a **local jurisdiction** has passed a bylaw under Section 11(2) of the LAEA, which allows for **election day** to be held on the Saturday immediately before the 3rd Monday in October, the last day to file nomination papers would then fall on the Saturday, four weeks prior to **election day**. **Nomination day** is the last day a person may file a nomination to become a **candidate** in the election.

The nomination period for the 2025 General Election begins on January 1, 2025, and ends at 12:00 noon on nomination day.

Nomination day for the 2025 General Election is Monday, September 22, 2025.

LAEA
s.25(2)(b)

In the case of a **by-election**, **election day** will be set through a resolution of the local **elected authority**. Candidates can begin to file nomination papers the day after the resolution was passed up until **nomination day**, four weeks prior to **election day**.

LAEA
s.12(a)(i)
s.12(d)

In the case of a summer village, **nomination day** must occur in June and/or July and **election day** occurs four weeks following **nomination day**. **Nomination day** is set by **council** resolution.

Form of Nomination

LAEA
s. 27

Nominations must be filed using the required forms (Form 4 – Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance and Form 5 – Candidate Information). Contact the **local jurisdiction** office to determine where to access the nomination form and to seek support with filling out the form accurately. The **returning officer** or a **deputy** may be able to help prospective candidates.

LAEA
s.27(1)

What is included in the Form of Nomination?

Generally, your nomination paper must be signed by at least five (5) voters eligible to vote in the election. The signatures collected must be from people who are residents in the **local jurisdiction** on the date of signing the nomination, and include the voter's name, address (street address or legal description of residence), and signature.

Prospective candidates may begin to collect signatures at any time but cannot file their nomination papers with the **returning officer** until January 1 in the year of the election. In the case of a **by-election**, **candidates** may begin to file their nomination papers the day following when the resolution was made to set the **by-election** date.

In the case of summer villages, the **council** is required to set **election day** and **nomination day** will be four weeks prior to election at the times and location provided for through **council** resolution.

It is often a good idea to obtain more than the required number of signatures in the event that one or more persons were not eligible to sign the nomination form.

LAEA
s.27(2)

Local jurisdictions with a population of at least 10,000 may pass a bylaw increasing the number of voters' signatures required to a maximum of 100. Ensure that you check with the **local jurisdiction** to determine the number of signatures that you require for nomination.

LAEA
s.27(3)

If you are seeking election in a **local jurisdiction** with a division or **ward** system, the voters signing your nomination form must be residents in the **ward** or division in which you are running.

LAEA
s.12(b)

In summer villages, the nominators must be;

- eligible to vote in the election;
- 18 years of age;
- a Canadian citizen; and
- either residents or those named on the certificate of title as the person who owns property within the summer village or is the **spouse** or adult interdependent partner of the person named on the title.

In addition to the signatures, the nomination paper must also be complete with the **candidate's** written acceptance sworn or affirmed in the **prescribed form** by the person nominated and in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths in Alberta. The **local jurisdiction** office may have information regarding who the Commissioners for Oaths are in the area.

If a **candidate's** information changes, that information must be updated with the **local jurisdiction**, in writing, within 48 hours of that change.

LAEA
s.28(4)

The **returning officer** will not accept the following:

- A nomination that is not completed in the **prescribed form**;
- A nomination that is not signed by at least the minimum number of persons required to sign the nomination;
- A nomination that is not sworn or affirmed by the person nominated;
- A nomination that is not accompanied by a deposit (if required by bylaw); or
- A nomination that is not accompanied with a criminal record check (if required by bylaw).

LAEA
s.68.1

Official Agent

On the nomination form, a **candidate** may choose to appoint an **elector** to be their **official agent**. Eligibility criteria for this role are found in Section 68.1.

This person may act as the signing authority for the campaign bank account and manage aspects of the campaign as directed by the **candidate**. No **candidate** may act as an **official agent** for another **candidate**.

If you have appointed an **official agent**, you must include the information on the **candidate's** nomination form. If, at any time, the information changes or there is a need to appoint a new **official agent**, the **candidate** is required to notify the **returning officer** immediately.

Filing the Nomination

LAEA
s. 27

Once you have completed the nomination form, the next step is to ensure that you file the Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance Form (Form 4), as well as the Candidate Information Form (Form 5) during the **nomination period**, prior to noon on **nomination day**.

LAEA
s.25

How do I file my Nomination Form?

Completed nomination forms can be filed with the **returning officer** at any time beginning on January 1 in the year of the **general election** and until four (4) weeks prior to **election day**. In the case of a **by-election**, the **returning officer** can begin to accept nomination papers the day

following the day when the resolution was made by **council** setting the date for the **by-election**.

LAEA
s. 12(d)

For summer villages, nominations for **councillor** must be received by the **returning officer** in June or July (or both), in the year of the **general election**. The date, time, and location of where nomination papers will be accepted must be established by **council**.

LAEA
s.26

Local jurisdictions will advertise **nomination day** in one of three ways:

- in a newspaper or another publication circulating in the area once a week for two weeks prior to the close of nominations;
- a direct mail-out or delivery of a notice to every residence at least one week prior to the close of nominations; or
- in accordance with a local advertisement bylaw.

The advertisement will indicate where and when the **returning officer** will receive the nominations. It is important to check the advertisement or with your **local jurisdiction** office for the time and location to file your nomination papers.

LAEA
s.28(3)

Do I have to file my Nomination Form in person?

Nominations shall be submitted to the **returning officer**, or their designate, at any time during the **nomination period**. It is best to deliver your nomination form in person; however, anyone may submit your nomination paper on your behalf, or it may be sent by mail. If you are unable to submit your nomination paper in person, ensure that the forms are completed fully prior to it being filed with the **returning officer** because, as the **candidate**, it is your responsibility to ensure that your forms are fully completed and meet the requirements for filing under Section 27 of the *LAEA*.

LAEA
s.29

Do I have to pay a deposit to file my Nomination Form?

Local jurisdictions may have a bylaw requiring a deposit to accompany nominations. The amount fixed in the bylaw may not exceed:

- \$1,000 in **local jurisdictions** with a population over 10,000; and
- \$100 in any other case.

When you inquire or pick up the nomination form from the **local jurisdiction**, ensure that you seek clarification on whether a deposit is required and if so, the amount of the deposit.

If a deposit is required, it must be paid, in full, at the time you file your nomination form. A deposit must be payable to the **local jurisdiction** and may be paid using:

- cash;
- certified cheque;
- money order;
- e-transfer; or
- debit or credit card.

Confirm in advance which of these payment methods the **local jurisdiction** is equipped to accept.

LAEA
s.30

Will I get my deposit back?

Your deposit will be returned to you if you:

- are elected;
- get at least one-half the number of votes of the person elected to office with the least number of votes; or
- withdraw as a **candidate** within 24 hours of the close of nominations.

LAEA
s.32

Withdrawing Nominations

Candidates may withdraw their nomination form at any time during the **nomination period** and up to 24 hours (48 hours in a summer village) after the close of the **nomination period**.

If **candidates** choose to withdraw, they must provide written notice, in person, to the **returning officer**.

LAEA
s.32

Insufficient Nominations

If the number of nominations filed is less than the number of vacancies in the municipality, the **returning officer** will be available to receive nominations the next day from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This process must continue for six business days (calendar days in summer villages). If, at the end of the six-day period, insufficient nominations continue, municipalities are required to contact the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

LAEA
s.34

Acclamations

If, 24 hours after the close of nominations, or the completion of the time period described above, the number of **candidates** nominated equals the number of vacancies in the municipality, nominations will be closed and the **returning officer** will declare the **candidates** elected by acclamation (no election will be held).

LAEA
s.35

Requirement for Election

If more than the required nominations are received by 12 noon or the completion of the time period described above, nominations will be closed, and the election will be held according to legislated process.

LAEA
s.12(d)

Summer Villages

In the case of a summer village, the **returning officer** will announce the time and place when further nominations will be received.

Late Filing of Nominations

Unless there are insufficient nominations, the **returning officer** CANNOT accept nominations after 12:00 noon on **nomination day**. Ensure you check with your **local jurisdiction** on the time and location for filing nomination forms and ensure you file your nomination paper well in advance at the location available.

Despite the term “**nomination day**”, it is useful to think of it as a nomination deadline day. There is no need to wait until **nomination day** to file forms and if there is any question of your availability, be sure to file your forms prior to this date.

Campaigning

Once the **campaign period** begins and they have filed the appropriate forms with the **local jurisdiction**, **candidates** generally direct their own election campaigns during local elections.

The purpose of campaigning is to convince the **electors** they are the best **candidate** for the position.

Candidates have used various strategies, such as:

- door-knocking;
- signage;
- brochures or posters;
- participating in local **candidate** debates or forums;
- social media pages or websites; and
- hosting a meet and greet event.

Candidates have considerable flexibility in organizing their election campaigns, provided they avoid committing election or campaign financing offences.

Is there anything I cannot do during a campaign?

It is essential that **candidates** seek clarification from **returning officers** relating to local bylaws that may regulate campaign activities, such as the use and placement of campaign signage throughout the municipality. Candidates are encouraged to contact their **local jurisdiction's** office or speak to the **returning officer** for more information about local election rules.

There are also a variety of offence provisions included in the *LAEA* that **candidates** should review and understand.

If **candidates** require additional interpretation or clarification of provincial legislation or municipal bylaws, they should seek independent legal advice.

LAEA
s.116

Bribery

As a **candidate**, you cannot give, or promise to give, money or any other valuable consideration (such as an office or job) to anyone in return for their vote, or by agreeing to refrain from voting.

In addition, an **elector** or resident of the municipality cannot accept money or any other valuable consideration in return for voting or not voting during an election.

LAEA
s.117

Undue Influence

As a **candidate**, you cannot use, or threaten to use, violence, injury, damage, or intimidation to compel a person to vote or refrain from voting at an election. You cannot obstruct the voting process or obstruct a person from accessing a **voting station** to vote during an election.

LAEA
s. 152
s. 152.1

Canvassing on Election Day

Candidates, **official agents**, or campaign volunteers cannot canvass or solicit votes in a **voting station** or on the property used for a **voting station** on an **advance vote** or **election day**. In addition, campaign materials (posters, pins, signage, etc.) cannot be displayed or distributed inside or on the outside of a building used as a **voting station**.

Campaign Expenses and Contributions

Campaign activities usually trigger campaign financing rules and as such, **candidates** must ensure they are aware of and follow the rules. A **candidate** that has failed to follow campaign financing requirements may have committed an offence and may be subject to penalties, disqualification, or ineligibility to run in future elections.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to read and understand Part 5.1 of the *LAEA* as it pertains to Election Finance and Contribution Disclosure.

Allowable Campaign Expenses

LAEA
s.147.1(1)(a)

A “**campaign expense**” is an expense a **candidate, local political party, or slate** makes in the course of a campaign for election. Technically, this includes any expense incurred, or non-monetary **contribution** received, by a **candidate, local political party, or slate** to the extent that the property or service that the expense was incurred for, or that was received as a non-monetary **contribution**, is used to directly promote or oppose a **candidate, local political party, or slate** during a **campaign period**.

“**Campaign expense**” includes an expense incurred for, or a non-monetary **contribution** in relation to:

- the production of advertising or promotional material;
- the distribution, broadcast, or publication of advertising or promotional material in any media or by any other means during a **campaign period**, including by the use of a capital asset;
- the payment of remuneration and expenses to or on behalf of a person for the person’s services as a chief financial officer or in any other capacity,
- securing a meeting place; or
- the conduct of opinion polls, surveys, or research during a **campaign period**.

LAEA
s.147.34

Campaign Expense Limits

The *LAEA* allows for the establishment of a regulation that sets out the amount of money that may be spent by **candidates** during the **campaign period**. The Expense Limit Regulation came into force on October 31, 2024.

Campaign Expense Limits for election years

Upon registration, during a local election year in Alberta, the expense limits are described below. These limits do not apply to **candidates** for school **trustee**.

Mayoral **candidates** may spend up to \$1 per person based on the population of the municipality, or \$20,000, whichever is greater.

Councillor candidates will be allowed to spend:

- where there are **wards**, up to \$1 per person based on the average population of the **wards** in the municipality, or \$20,000, whichever is greater; or
- where there are no **wards**, up to \$1 per person based on the population of the municipality, or \$20,000, whichever is greater.

Local political parties (Edmonton and Calgary **candidates** only) will be allowed to spend up to \$1 per person based on the average population of all **wards** in the municipality, for each **ward** in which the party has endorsed **candidates** running.

Third-party advertisers will be allowed to spend \$0.50 per person based on the population of the municipality during the election year advertising period (May 1 – Oct. 20, 2025).

Campaign Expense Limits for non-election years

Upon registration, for the year immediately before the election year, the expense limits are as follows.

Mayoral **candidates** may spend up to \$0.50 per person based on the population of the municipality, or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

Councillor candidates will be allowed to spend:

- where there are **wards**, up to \$0.50 per person based on the average population of the **wards** in the municipality, or \$10,000, whichever is greater, or
- where there are no **wards**, up to \$0.50 per person based on the population of the municipality, or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

Registered local political parties (Edmonton and Calgary **candidates** only) will be allowed to spend up to \$0.50 per person based on the average population of all **wards** in the municipality, for each **ward** in which the party has endorsed **candidates** running.

Candidates and local political parties will not be allowed to incur expenses during the two years following an election year.

LAEA
s.147.1(1)(c)

Campaign Contributions

“**Contribution**” means in respect of a candidate’s election campaign or a local political party, any money, personal property, real property, or service provided without fair market value compensation from that candidate or local political party, but does not include a service provided by an individual who voluntarily performs the service and receives no compensation, directly or indirectly, for the service or time spent providing the service

LAEA
s.147.2 &
Expense
Limit
Regulation

Limitations on Contributions

No prohibited organization, individual ordinarily resident outside Alberta or **trade union** or **employee organization** other than an **Alberta trade union** or **Alberta employee organization** shall contribute to a **candidate**.

In a calendar year during the **campaign period** of a **general election**, **contributions** to a candidate by an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta shall not exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate to all **candidates** in a municipality. This limitation also applies to the **campaign period** for **by-elections**, which is the period beginning on the day after the resolution or bylaw is passed setting the **by-election** and ending 60 days after the **by-election**.

Contributions by a corporation other than a prohibited organization, by an **Alberta trade union** or by an **Alberta employee organization** shall not exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate to all **candidates** for election during the **campaign period**.

Accepting **contributions** in excess of the statutory limits is prohibited.

Soliciting or accepting **contributions** from prohibited organizations and individuals not ordinarily resident in Alberta, as well as from non-Albertan **trade unions** or **employee organizations**, is prohibited.

LAEA
s.147.1(1)(f)

Prohibited organizations include:

- a municipality;
- a corporation that is controlled by a municipality and meets the test set out in Section 1(2) of the *MGA*;
- a non-profit organization that has received since the last **general election** any of the following from the municipality in which the election will be held:
 - (A) a grant;

- (B) real property; or
- (C) personal property;
- a provincial corporation as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*, including a management body within the meaning of the *Alberta Housing Act*;
- a Metis settlement;
- a **board of trustees** under the *Education Act*;
- a public post-secondary institution as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*;
- a corporation that does not carry on business in Alberta;
- a registered party as defined in the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* or the *Canada Elections Act (Canada)*; or
- an organization designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as a prohibited organization.

LAEA
s.147.24

Contributions Not Belonging to Contributor

No individual, corporation, **trade union**, or **employee organization** shall contribute to a **candidate** funds not belonging to them, or funds given or furnished to them by another individual, corporation, **trade union**, or **employee organization** or a prohibited organization for the purpose of contributing those funds to a **candidate**.

No individual, corporation, **trade union**, **employee organization**, or prohibited organization shall give or furnish funds to another individual, corporation, **trade union**, or **employee organization** for the purpose of having them make a **contribution** of those funds to a **candidate**.

LAEA
s.147.31(2)

Candidates must ensure they record the gross income from any fundraising function held for their campaign. In addition, if the function is held by the sale of tickets, the amount of the **contribution** is to be determined using the following rules:

LAEA
s.147.31(3)

- if the individual charge is \$50 or less, it is not considered a **contribution** unless the individual who pays the charge specifically requests it to be a **contribution**. If a request is made, half of the amount is allowed for expenses and half is considered a **contribution**. Even if the amount is not considered a **contribution**, the **candidate** may choose to still issue a receipt and keep a record of the transaction;
- if the individual charge is more than \$50 but less than \$100, \$25 is allowed for expenses and the balance is considered to be a **contribution**; and
- if the **contribution** is more than \$100, 25 per cent of the amount is allowed for expenses and the remaining balance is considered to be a **contribution**.

LAEA
s.147.32
LAEA
s.147.4(1)(b)

Receipts

As a part of the **candidate's** responsibilities, they, or a person acting on their behalf, must issue a receipt for every **contribution** received in a form acceptable to the **local jurisdiction**. If a **contribution** is in excess of \$50, the name and address of the contributor and the amount of the **contribution** must be recorded because it is required to be included with the campaign disclosure statements.

Contributions of real property, personal property, goods and services have to be valued. Throughout the duration of the campaign, receipts must be issued for every **contribution** received and be obtained for every expense. Receipts will assist **candidates** in creating itemized expense reports and can be used as proof of **contributions**.

LAEA
s.147.33

Loans

Candidates may borrow money only from a financial institution and shall record all loans and their terms. All loans and their terms must be reported accordingly to the **local jurisdiction**.

Only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta, a corporation other than a prohibited organization, an **Alberta trade union** or an **Alberta employee organization** may make a payment on behalf of the borrower in respect of a loan.

Payments on loans are considered to be a **contribution** if the borrower does not reimburse the payment before the borrower is next required to file a disclosure statement.

LAEA
s.147.3(1)

Bank Account

A campaign account in the name of the **candidate** or the **candidate's** election campaign must be opened at a financial institution for the purposes of the election campaign at the time the **candidate** gives a written notice under Section 147.22 or as soon as possible after the total amount of **contributions** first exceeds \$1,000 in the aggregate.

Money in that account must then only be used for the payment of **campaign expenses**.

LAEA
s.147.3(1)(f)

Record Keeping

All campaign records of **contributions** and expenses must be kept for a minimum of three (3) years following the day of the election to which they relate.

LAEA
s.147.4

Campaign Disclosure Statements

In the case of a **general election**, on or before September 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held, a **candidate** who received **contributions** in the period beginning on January 1 and ending on July 31 of that year must file a disclosure statement in respect of that period.

Additionally, on or before March 1 of each year, a **candidate** who received **contributions** in the previous year shall file a disclosure statement in respect of the previous year.

Within 120 days of the day on which a **by-election** is held, a **candidate** who has received **contributions** during the **campaign period** for that **by-election** must file a disclosure statement in respect of the campaign period. A disclosure statement referred to above must:

- (a) be in the prescribed form;
- (b) be filed with the secretary of the candidate's local jurisdiction; and
- (c) include the following information for the applicable period:
 - i) the total amount of all **contributions** received that did not exceed \$50 in the aggregate from any single contributor;
 - ii) in respect of each contributor that made **contributions** exceeding \$50 in the aggregate, the total amount contributed and the contributor's name and address;
 - iii) the total amount of all **contributions** received under Section 147.2(4);
 - iv) the total amount received from fundraising functions;
 - v) the total amount of other revenue received;
 - vi) the total amount of **campaign expenses** incurred;
 - vii) an itemized **campaign expense** report setting out the **campaign expenses** incurred by the **candidate**;
 - viii) the total amount paid by the **candidate** out of the **candidate's** own funds and not reimbursed from the **candidate's** campaign fund;
 - ix) in respect of a disclosure statement required annually on March 1, if the previous year was the year in which an election was held:
 - (1) the total amount of any campaign surplus for the **campaign period**, including any surplus from previous campaigns; and
 - (2) the amount of any deficit for the **campaign period**;
 - i) in respect of a disclosure statement required after a **by-election**:

- (1) the total amount of any campaign surplus, including any surplus from previous campaigns; and
- (2) the amount of any deficit.

A **candidate** who incurs **campaign expenses** or receives **contributions** of \$50,000 or more, shall file a **review engagement** with the disclosure statement. **Review engagements** are defined in the *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*.

Within 30 days, a **candidate** must submit a supplementary statement in the **prescribed form** to the **local jurisdiction** if any of the information reported in the disclosure statement has changed or is inaccurate.

LAEA
s.147.5

Campaign Surplus

If a candidate's disclosure statement in respect of the year in which a **general election** was held or in the case of a **by-election** shows a surplus, the candidate, within 60 days after filing the disclosure statement with the **local jurisdiction**:

- (a) shall, with respect to any amount that is \$1000 or more, donate an amount to a **registered charity** that results in the surplus being less than \$1000; and
- (b) may, with respect to any amount that is less than \$1000:
 - (i) retain all or any portion of that amount; and
 - (ii) donate all or any portion of that amount to a **registered charity**.

A candidate who donates an amount to a **registered charity** in accordance with subsection (1)(a) or (b)(ii) shall, within 30 days after the expiration of the 60-day period referred to in subsection (1), file an amended disclosure statement showing that the surplus has been dealt with in accordance with this section.

Campaign Deficit

LAEA
s.147.6(1)

If a candidate's disclosure statement in respect of the year in which a **general election** was held or in the case of a **by-election** shows a deficit, the candidate shall eliminate the deficit within 60 days after filing the disclosure statement with the **local jurisdiction**.

LAEA
s.147.6(2)

For the purpose of eliminating a deficit referred to in subsection (1), a candidate may, notwithstanding Section 147.22(4), accept **contributions** in accordance with the LAEA during the period referred to above.

LAEA
s.147.6(3)

Subject to subsection (4), a candidate shall not accept a **contribution** of an amount that exceeds \$5000 from any single contributor for the purpose of this section.

LAEA
s.147.6(4)

A candidate may make a **contribution** from the candidate's own funds that does not exceed \$10,000 to reduce a deficit shown on the candidate's disclosure statement for the purpose of this section.

LAEA
s.147.6(5)

A candidate referred to in subsection (1) shall, within 30 days after the expiration of the 60-day period referred to in subsection (1), file an amended disclosure statement showing that the deficit has been eliminated.

LAEA
s.147.7

Late Filing

A **candidate** who fails to file a campaign disclosure statement within the specified time period is required to pay a \$500 late filing fee to the **local jurisdiction**. If the fee is not paid within 30 days, the **local jurisdiction** must send a notice to the **candidate** indicating the amount of the late filing fee to be paid.

If a **candidate** fails to file a disclosure statement, the **secretary** shall present a report to that effect to council on the day of the first council meeting after the filing deadline, and publish the report or the information in the report on the municipality's website by no later than that day. If a **candidate** files their disclosure statement no later than 10 days after the filing deadline, the **candidate** is not required to form part of the report proceeding to **council**. In the case of a school **board trustee**, the **secretary** of the school **board** shall transmit a report to that effect to the school **board**, which shall on its receipt make the report public.

If a **candidate**, who is sent a notice by the municipality, fails to pay the late filing fee, the municipality may file a copy of the notice with the Court of King's Bench, which then may be enforced by the **court**.

Failure to file a disclosure statement within legislated timelines is a reason for disqualification under Section 174 of the *MGA* and may impact eligibility to become a **candidate** in future elections.

LAEA
Part 8
s.190-205

Elections Alberta/Election Commissioner

As of August 1, 2019, the Alberta Election Commissioner, under Elections Alberta, has authority in local elections across Alberta. The Election Commissioner may investigate any matter that may constitute an offence under Part 5.1, Campaign Finance and Contribution Disclosure, or Part 8, Third-Party Advertising, of the *LAEA*.

For more information regarding the authority of the Election Commissioner, including contact information please visit:

www.elections.ab.ca/compliance-enforcement/complaints/.

Voting Opportunities

Voting Times

Voting stations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on **election day**, unless the **local jurisdiction** has passed a bylaw allowing an earlier opening.

Local governments may set specific hours for any advance voting opportunities held during local elections, but all **voting stations** must close by 8:00 p.m.

Counting Ballots

Ballot counting begins after **voting stations** close at 8:00 p.m. on **election day**.

Candidates or one of their representatives (e.g., **scrutineer** or **official agent**) are entitled to be present during the ballot count. However, only one person from a **candidate's** team, including the **candidate**, may be present at the **voting station** at the same time.

The **presiding deputy** may designate the place or places at a **voting station** where a **candidate**, an **official agent**, or a **scrutineer** of a **candidate**, may observe the election procedure.

Candidates or their representatives may raise an objection to a ballot's acceptance or rejection with the **presiding deputy returning officer** supervising the ballot counting process.

Ballot accounts, that outline individual voting place results and reconcile the number of ballots distributed with the number of ballots cast in the local government election, are prepared at each voting place. Ballots are then packaged and returned to the **returning officer** at the **local jurisdiction** office, where the unofficial election results are then determined.

After Election Day

Official Election Results

The **returning officer** must announce the official election results at 12 noon on the 4th day after **election day** by posting a statement of the results of the voting for **candidates**, including a declaration that the **candidate** receiving the highest number of votes for each office to be filled is elected.

Reasons for a Preliminary Recount

LAEA
s.98

The **returning officer** may make a recount of the votes cast at one or more **voting stations** if a **candidate**, **official agent**, or a **scrutineer** of a **candidate** shows grounds that the **returning officer** considers reasonable for alleging that the record of the result of the count of votes at any **voting station** is inaccurate.

A returning officer may also make a recount if they consider the number of valid ballots objected to or rejected ballots other than those on which no vote has been cast by an elector, to be sufficient to affect the result of the election if they had not been objected to or rejected.

If the returning officer is of the opinion that there may have been an administrative or technical error that caused an error in the count of votes, they may make a recount.

If an application for a recount under this circumstance is made, it must be made during the 44 hours immediately following the closing of the **voting stations** but may not be made afterwards.

Recount on Request

The **returning officer** shall make a recount of the votes cast at one or more **voting stations** if the **returning officer** receives an application for a recount from a runner up **candidate** or their **official agent** and the **returning officer** is satisfied that:

- a) where one office is to be filled, the difference between the number of valid ballots marked for the **candidate** with the highest number of votes and the number of valid ballots marked for the **candidate** with the second highest number of votes is within 0.5 per cent of the total number of valid ballots marked at the election for that office; or
- b) where more than one office is to be filled from a pool of **candidates**, the difference between the number of valid ballots marked for the **candidate** with the lowest sufficient number of votes to be declared elected to one of the offices and the number of valid ballots marked for the **candidate** with the highest insufficient number of votes to be declared elected is within 0.5 per cent of the total number of valid ballots marked at the election for those offices.

An application for a recount under these circumstances may only be made, where one office is to be filled, by the **candidate** with the second highest number of votes or the **official agent** for that **candidate**, or, in an election where there is more than one office to be filled, by the **candidate** with the highest insufficient number of votes or the **official agent** for that **candidate**.

If a **candidate** requests a recount under these circumstances, the request must be made within 72 hours after the statement of results is announced or posted in accordance with Section 97(2).

Judicial Recount

At any time within 19 days after the close of the **voting stations** on **election day**, any **elector** may apply to the **court** for a recount. See Part 4 of the *LAEA* for more information.

Controverted Elections

A **candidate**, **elected authority**, or an **elector** may contest the validity of an election of a member of an **elected authority** through the **courts** within 6 weeks of **election day**.

The person raising the issue must show a judge reasonable grounds:

- for supposing that the election was not legal or was not conducted according to law;
- for supposing that an unsuccessful **candidate** was not eligible for nomination and that the results of the election would have been different had that **candidate** not run;
- for contesting the validity of the election of a member of the **elected authority**; or
- for contesting the validity of the result of a vote on a bylaw or question.

More information about this **court** process can be found in Part 5 of the *LAEA*.

Appendix A: 2025 General Election Key Dates

October 31, 2024	First day for individuals to be able to become candidates and begin accepting contribution and incurring expenses by submitting a notice of intent to run with the local jurisdiction in which the individuals intend to be nominated.
January 1, 2025	Start of nomination period .
January 1, 2025	Earliest date a municipal/school employee wishing to be nominated may notify the employer that they are taking an unpaid leave of absence.
March 1, 2025	Deadline to submit campaign finance disclosure statement (for candidates who accepted contributions in 2024).
March 22, 2025	Starting date of the consecutive 6-month period to be a resident of the local jurisdiction and ward , if any, to be eligible for nomination.
May 1, 2025	Start of election advertising period for third-party advertisers.
September 21, 2025	Latest date a municipal/school employee wishing to be nominated may notify the employer that they are taking an unpaid leave of absence.
September 22, 2025	Nomination day (nomination period closes at 12 noon).
September 23, 2025	Candidates may withdraw their nomination in writing, in person, until 12 p.m.
September 30, 2025	Deadline to submit campaign finance disclosure statement (for candidates who accepted contributions between January 1, 2025, and July 31, 2025).
October 20, 2025	Election day *
October 22, 2025	Candidates may request a recount before 4:00 p.m. (See Section 98 in the <i>LAEA</i> for reasons for a preliminary recount).
October 24, 2025	Official election results must be posted by 12 noon.
October 27, 2025	A candidate may request a recount under Section 98.1(3) by 12 noon (applies if the votes between the candidate declared elected and the first runner up are within 0.5 per cent of the total number of votes cast for that office).
November 3, 2025	Last day for a municipal council to hold an organizational meeting.
November 8, 2025	Last day for an elector to request a judicial recount.
December 1, 2025	Last day for a candidate , an elected authority , or an elector to initiate a court process to challenge the validity of an election under <i>LAEA</i> Part 5.
December 31, 2025	End of campaign period .
January 1, 2026	Start of campaign period for 2029 General Election .

March 1, 2026	Deadline to submit campaign finance disclosure statement for candidates who accepted contributions in 2025 and for registered third-party advertisers.
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* For summer villages, elections are held during the months of June, July, and August on a date selected by the municipality.

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
advance vote	a vote taken in advance of election day
Alberta employee organization	any organization that bargains collectively for employees in Alberta; for the purposes of this Act, all branches in Alberta of an employee organization are deemed to be one employee organization
Alberta trade union	a trade union as defined in the <i>Labour Relations Code</i> , the <i>Public Service Employee Relations Act</i> or the <i>Canada Labour Code (Canada)</i> that holds bargaining rights for employees in Alberta; for the purposes of this Act all locals of a trade union are deemed to be one trade union
board	a board of trustees of a school division
by-election	an election other than a general election or a first election
campaign expense	any expense incurred, or non-monetary contribution received, by a candidate, local political party, or slate to the extent that the property or service that the expense was incurred for, or that was received as a non-monetary contribution, is used to directly promote or oppose a candidate, local political party, or slate during a campaign period, and includes an expense incurred for, or a non-monetary contribution in relation to: (i) the production of advertising or promotional material; (ii) the distribution, broadcast or publication of advertising or promotional material in any media or by any other means during a campaign period, including by the use of a capital asset; (iii) the payment of remuneration and expenses to or on behalf of a person for the person's services as a chief financial officer or in any other capacity; (iv) securing a meeting place, (v) the conduct of election surveys or other surveys or research during a campaign period; or (vi) the production of a review engagement required by the LAEA.
campaign period	(i) in the case of a general election, the period beginning on January 1 of the year immediately following a general election and ending on December 31 immediately following the next general election; and (ii) in the case of a by-election, the period beginning on the day after the resolution or bylaw is passed to set the election day for the by-election and ending 60 days after the by-election.
candidate	means, except in Part 5.1, an individual who has been nominated to run for election in a local jurisdiction as a councillor or school board trustee In Part 5.1 - Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure, the term "candidate" means:

	(i) an individual who has been nominated to run for election in a local jurisdiction as a councillor or school board trustee; and (ii) an individual who intends to be nominated to run for election in a local jurisdiction as a councillor or as a school board trustee that has given written notice in accordance with Section 147.22 of the <i>LAEA</i>.
CAO	chief administrative officer appointed by a municipal council under Section 205 of the <i>MGA</i>
contribution	in respect of a candidate's election campaign or a local political party, any money, personal property, real property or service provided without fair market value compensation from that candidate or local political party, but does not include a service provided by an individual who voluntarily performs the service and receives no compensation, directly or indirectly, for the service or time spent providing the service
council	the council of a city, town, village, summer village, municipal district or specialized municipality, a town under the <i>Parks Towns Act</i> , or a municipality incorporated by a special Act
councillor	a member of council , which includes the chief elected official
court	Court of King's Bench
deputy	deputy returning officer
elected authority	a council under the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> , or a board of trustees under the <i>Education Act</i>
election	a general election , first election, by-election and a vote on a bylaw or question
election advertising period	In the case of a general election, the period beginning on May 1 in the year in which a general election is held and ending at the end of the election day. In the case of a by-election, the period beginning on the day after the resolution or bylaw is passed to set the election day for the by-election and ending at the end of the election day. In the case of a vote on a bylaw or question, the period beginning on the day the election is set by resolution or bylaw and ending at the end of the election day.
election day	the day fixed for voting at an election
elector	a person eligible to vote at an election
employee organization	an organization, other than a trade union , that bargains collectively for employees

general election	an election held for all the members of an elected authority to fill vacancies caused by the passage of time
local jurisdiction	a municipality as defined in the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> or a school division as defined in the <i>Education Act</i>
local political party (LPP)	an organization one of whose fundamental purposes is to participate in public affairs by endorsing one or more candidates in a local jurisdiction and supporting their election. A local political party shall not be any of the organizations referred to in Section 158.3(2).
nomination day	the day referred to in Section 25(1) of the <i>LAEA</i>
nomination period	the relevant period referred to in Section 25(2) of the <i>LAEA</i>
official agent	a person appointed as an official agent pursuant to Section 68.1 of the <i>LAEA</i>
prescribed form	the appropriate form as set out in the regulations
presiding deputy	a deputy who has been appointed as a presiding deputy pursuant to Section 14, by a returning officer
registered charity	a registered charity within the meaning of subsection 248(1) of the <i>Income Tax Act (Canada)</i>
returning officer	a person appointed under the <i>LAEA</i> as a returning officer and includes a person acting in the returning officer's place
review engagement	a review engagement as defined in the <i>Chartered Professional Accountants Act</i>
scrutineer	a person recognized as a scrutineer pursuant to Section 69 or appointed pursuant to Section 70
secretary	a chief administrative officer or designated officer of a municipality if the council has assigned the functions of the secretary under this Act to the designated officer, or the secretary of a school board
slate	a group of two or more candidates whose fundamental purpose is to support the election of the slate's candidate members
spouse	the spouse of a married person but does not, for the purposes of Section 22(4), include a spouse who is living separate and apart from the person if the person and spouse have separated pursuant to a written separation agreement or if their support obligations and family property have been dealt with by a court order
third-party	an individual, corporation, or group, but does not include a candidate

trade union	an organization of employees that has a written constitution, rules or bylaws and has as one of its objects the regulation of relations between employers and employees
trustee	a member of a board under the <i>Education Act</i>
voting station	the place where an elector votes
ward	a ward under the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> , or a ward or an electoral subdivision under the <i>Education Act</i>

TOWN OF LEGAL – COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR

2025

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATES	GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES MEETING DATES	HOLIDAY DATES
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Jan 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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Feb 2025						
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Mar 2025						
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Apr 2025						
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May 2025						
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Jun 2025						
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Jul 2025						
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Aug 2025						
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Sep 2025						
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Oct 2025						
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Nov 2025						
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Dec 2025						
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28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 1 – New Year’s Day	APRIL 18 – Good Friday	JULY 1 – Canada Day	OCTOBER 31 – Halloween
FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine’s Day	APRIL 21 – Easter Monday	AUGUST 4 – Heritage Day	NOVEMBER 2 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
FEBRUARY 17 – Family Day	MAY 11 – Mother’s Day	SEPTEMBER 1 – Labour Day	NOVEMBER 11 – Remembrance Day
MARCH 9 – Daylight Savings Time Begins	MAY 19 – Victoria Day	SEPTEMBER 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day	DECEMBER 25 – Christmas Day
MARCH 17 – St Patrick’s Day	JUNE 15 – Father’s Day	OCTOBER 13 – Thanksgiving	DECEMBER 26 – Boxing Day

List of Town Committees

Alberta Bilingual Municipalities Association	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Budget Committee	All members of Council
Community Services Advisory Board	All members of Council
Economic Development Committee	2 Council Members
Edmonton Salutes	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Emergency Advisory Committee	All members of Council
Fete au Village Committee	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Governance and Priorities Committee	All members of Council
Homeland Housing	1 Council Member
Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework & Intermunicipal Development Plan	3 Council Members
Legal & District Chamber of Commerce	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Northern Lights Library Board	1 Council Member
Regional Emergency Advisory Committee	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Rosieridge Waste Management Services Commission	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Sponsorship Committee	2 Council Members
Sturgeon Regional Partnership	1 Council Member & 1 Alternate
Subdivision & Development Appeal Board	1 Council Member
Town of Legal Library Board	1 Council Member

**TOWN OF LEGAL
BYLAW #15-2021
PROCEDURAL BYLAW**

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF LEGAL, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE TRANSACTING OF BUSINESS BY COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPALITY.

WHEREAS, it is Council's desire to establish and follow a process and procedure of municipal governance that reflects an open, transparent government where decisions are made after all information has been provided; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26*, and amendments thereto, Council may pass bylaws in relation to the procedures of Council and Council Committees, and the conduct of elected officials and members of Council Committees; and

WHEREAS, Council hereby establishes the following rules and regulations for the order and conduct in which all Council and committee meetings shall transact its business.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Town of Legal duly assembled enacts as follows:

1. TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the "Council Procedural Bylaw".

2. DEFINITIONS

- a. "Act" means the *Municipal Government Act (MGA), R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26*, any regulations thereunder and any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
- b. "Administration" means the administrative and operational arm of the Municipality, comprised of the various departments and business units and including all Town staff who operate under the leadership and supervision of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- c. "Agenda" means the agenda for regular or special meetings of Council prepared pursuant to Section 9 of this Bylaw.
- d. "Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)" means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Legal, or their designate.
- e. "Closed Session (In Camera)" means a confidential portion of a council or committee meeting that is closed to the public in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and at which only members of Council and other persons designated by Council may attend.
- f. "Committee" means any committee, board or other body established by Council under the *Municipal Government Act*.
- g. "Council" means the Council of the Town of Legal.
- h. "Councillor" means a member of Council including the Mayor elected pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Authorities Act*.
- i. "Delegation" means any person, or group of persons, firm or organization that is neither a member of the committee or council, wishing to address a committee or council upon a request to the Chief Administrative Officer.
- j. "Deputy Mayor" means the member who is appointed by Council pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* to act as Mayor in the absence or incapacity of the Mayor.
- k. "Electronic Communications" means that members of Council may attend a Council or committee meeting through electronic communications. This can include using a telephone with the use of the speaker; via personal computer, or other means as technology advances.
- l. "Emergency" means a situation or the threat of an impending situation adversely affecting property and/or the health, safety and welfare of the Town of Legal, which by its nature and magnitude requires a timely, coordinated, and controlled response.
- m. "Emergent Resolution" means a resolution that is deemed to be necessary to take an expedient action for the benefit of the municipality that should happen before the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- n. "Governance and Priorities Committee" means the members of Council and administrative leadership team.
- o. "Mayor" means the Chief Elected Official of the Town of Legal, pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*, and appointed by Council.
- p. "Meeting" means any regular, special or other meeting of Council or of a committee, as the context requires.



- q. "Member" means a member of Council duly elected and continuing to hold office, or where the context requires, a member of a Council Committee appointed by Council.
- r. "Member at Large" means a member of the public appointed by Council to a Committee of Council.
- s. "Municipality" means the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Legal.
- t. "Notice of Motion" is the means by which a member of Council brings business before Council that is not on the approved agenda.
- u. "Point of Order" is the raising of a question by a member to call attention to any departure from the Procedural Bylaw.
- v. "Point of Privilege" means that an interruption may occur only if necessary.
- w. "Presiding Officer" means the Mayor, or in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, or in the absence of the Deputy Mayor any other member of Council chosen to preside at the meeting.
- x. "Public Hearing" means a meeting of Council convened to hear matters pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*.
- y. "Quorum" means the majority of all members of Council, being fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) unless Council provides otherwise in this Bylaw.
- z. "Recess" means to take a short break in the order of business or an agenda item of a meeting with the intent of returning to that order of business or agenda item at the same meeting.
- aa. "Recorded Vote" means the making of a written record of the name and vote of each member who votes on a question and each member present who does not vote.
- bb. "Special Meeting" means a meeting called by the Mayor pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*.
- cc. "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Council members or two-thirds (2/3) of all members of a Committee.

3. APPLICATION

- 3.1 Words importing the masculine gender only, include the feminine gender whenever the context so requires and vice-versa.
- 3.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural or vice-versa whenever the context so requires.
- 3.3 This Bylaw shall govern the proceedings of Council, Governance and Priorities Committee, and Council Committees established by Council and shall be binding upon all Committee members whether Council or Members at Large.
- 3.4 Any matter of meeting conduct, which is not herein provided for, shall be determined in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*; and then, "*Roberts Rules of Order*", in that order.
- 3.5 In the absence of statutory obligation, any provision of this Bylaw may be temporarily altered or suspended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members present. A motion to temporarily alter or suspend this Bylaw is not debatable or amendable.
- 3.6 This Bylaw shall not be repealed, amended or suspended, unless it is repealed, amended or suspended, pursuant to the special provisions for procedural bylaw amendment contained in the *Municipal Government Act*.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- 4.1 Council shall hold an Organizational Meeting not later than two (2) weeks after the third Monday in October each year.
- 4.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall set the time and place for the Organizational Meeting, the business of the meeting shall be limited to:
 - 4.2.1 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor:
 - a. The Chief Elected Official, who shall be referred to as the Mayor, unless the Council directs that another title appropriate to the office be used, shall be appointed by Council, pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act, Statutes of Alberta 2000, c. L-21*, and amendments thereto.

- b. The Deputy Mayor shall be appointed by Council, pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act, Statutes of Alberta 2000, c. L-21*, and amendments thereto.
- c. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall take the prescribed oath of office.
- d. Until the Mayor has taken the oath of office, the Chief Administrative Officer shall chair the Organizational Meeting.

4.2.2 Setting the date and location of Regular Meetings:

- a. The date and time of regular Council meetings will be determined at the annual Council Organizational meeting.
- b. Regular meetings of Council shall be located in the Council Chambers of the Town of Legal Municipal Office.

4.2.3 The appointments of members to Committees which Council is entitled to make:

- a. Appointments of Council members to Committees shall be for a term of one (1) year, unless otherwise specified and reviewed at the Organizational Meeting.

4.2.4 Any other business required by the *Municipal Government Act*, or which Council or the Chief Administrative Officer may direct.

4.2.5 Additional items following an election year:

- a. Oath of Office – every member of Council must take the official oath of office prescribed by the *Oaths of Office Act*. The *Municipal Government Act* states that members of Council may not carry out any power, duty or function until they have taken the official oath.
- b. Councillor Code of Conduct Bylaw – every member of Council must review as per the Council orientation process.
- c. Procedural Bylaw – every member of Council must review as per the Council orientation process.

5. REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

5.1 All Council meetings will be advertised in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.

5.2 If there are changes to the date and time of a regular meeting, the municipality must give at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice of the change to all members and post the notice in a public office. Posting a public notice in the front foyer of the Town of Legal's Municipal Office is sufficient notice to the public if administration is unable to advertise the change in the local newspaper.

5.3 All meetings will be open to members of the public, except for Closed Session portions of the meeting.

5.4 Council has the authority to move into "Closed Sessions" pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* for the purposes of:

- a. Protecting the Municipality, its operations, economic interests and delivery of its mandate from harm that could result from the release of certain information;
- b. To comply with Division Two of Part One of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

5.5 Matters which may be discussed in a Closed Session include the following:

- a. Wages, salary and other personnel matters;
- b. Any information regarding contract negotiations;
- c. The acquisition, sale, lease or exchange of land;
- d. Matters involving litigation, or the discussion of legal advice provided to the Town of Legal;
- e. Matters concerning RCMP investigations or confidential reporting; and
- f. Information pertaining to the Town's accounting practices.

5.6 Council or Committee has no power at a Closed Session to pass any Bylaw or resolution apart from the resolution necessary to revert back to an open meeting.

6. QUORUM

- 6.1 As soon after the hour of the meeting as there is a quorum present, the Mayor shall take the Chair and call the meeting to order. A quorum is three (3) members who are eligible to vote.
- 6.2 In case the Mayor or Deputy Mayor is not in attendance within fifteen (15) minutes after the hour appointed for a meeting and a quorum is present, the Chief Administrative Officer shall call the meeting to order and a Chairman shall be chosen by the Councillors present who shall preside during the meeting or until the arrival of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- 6.3 If there is no quorum present within thirty (30) minutes after the time appointed for a regular meeting of Council, the Chief Administrative Officer shall record the names of the members of Council who are present and the meeting shall be absolutely adjourned until the next regular meeting, unless a special meeting has been duly called in the meantime. Notice of adjournment shall be posted on the outside door of access to the Council Chambers.
- 6.4 Whenever a vote on a motion before Council cannot be taken because of a loss of quorum resulting from:
 - a. The declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest; or
 - b. From a Councillor or Mayor not being present for all or part of a Public Hearing;then the motion shall be the first order of business to be proceeded with and disposed of at the meeting of Council under that particular order of business.
- 6.5 If a quorum is lost for any other reason than those aforementioned in Section 6.4, the meeting is adjourned.

7. MEETING THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

- 7.1 Council members may attend a Council meeting by means of electronic communication. Acceptable alternatives include: through the use of a telephone (with the speaker on), ensuring that dialogue is available for both parties; through the use of a personal computer; or other means as technology advances.
- 7.2 A Council member may attend regular or special Council meetings by means of electronic communication a maximum of three (3) times per calendar year, unless otherwise approved by Council.
- 7.3 A Council member shall be permitted to attend a meeting using electronic communication if that location is able to support its use, ensuring that all Council members participating in the meeting are able to communicate effectively.
- 7.4 A Council member attending a meeting via electronic communications is deemed to be present at the meeting for whatever period of time the connection via electronic communications remain active.
- 7.5 The Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Presiding Officer shall announce to those in attendance at the Council meeting that a Council member is attending the meeting by means of electronic communications.
- 7.6 When a vote is called, Council members attending the meeting by means electronic communications shall be asked to state their vote only after all other Council members present at the meeting have cast their votes by a show of hands.
- 7.7 When a Council member attends a Closed Session by means of electronic communication, they will be required to confirm that they have attended the Closed Session alone in keeping with the definition in this Bylaw of "Closed Session" by providing a statutory declaration or affidavit sworn or declared before the Chief Administrative Officer or Commissioner for Oaths prior to the next regular Council meeting.

8. CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS

- 8.1 A regular meeting may be cancelled:



- a. By a vote of the majority of members at a previously held meeting; or
- b. With the written consent of a majority of members, providing twenty-four (24) hours' notice is provided to members and the public; or
- c. With the written consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of Council if twenty-four (24) hours' notice is not provided to the public.

8.2 A special meeting of Council may be cancelled:

- a. By the Mayor if twenty-four (24) hours written notice is provided to all members and the public; or
- b. By the Mayor, with the written consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members, if less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice is provided to all members.

8.3 Notice of a cancelled or rescheduled regular Council meeting will be posted on the Town of Legal website, and if time permits, advertised in the local newspaper.

9. AGENDAS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

9.1 The agenda for each regular meeting shall be prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer or designate and provided together with copies of all pertinent correspondence, statements and reports to each member of Council by circulating them by electronic or other means as directed by the Chief Administrative Officer 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

9.2 If past the deadline, items may be brought forth for placement on the revised agenda. The revised agenda will be submitted to each member of Council by 4:30 P.M. prior to the meeting on Monday afternoon.

9.3 Any member of Council, a Town Official, or any other person wishing to have an item of business placed on the agenda for a regular Council meeting, shall make the submissions to the Chief Administrative Officer not later than 12:00 noon on the Wednesday of the week prior to the meeting, and/or at the Chief Administrative Officer's discretion. The submission shall contain adequate information to the satisfaction of the Chief Administrative Officer to enable Council to consider the matter.

9.4 No item of business shall be considered by the Council if the item has not been placed on the agenda. The agenda of the Council as distributed may be amended if the members of Council present, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, agree to add the item to the agenda. The Mayor, any Councillor, and/or the Chief Administrative Officer shall be given an opportunity to state why an item shall receive consideration on the agenda because of its nature before the motion is put to a vote.

9.5 When a communication intended for Council is received by the Chief Administrative Officer, they shall place it on the agenda of Council, unless the Chief Administrative Officer considers the matter contained in the communication to be impertinent, improper, libellous or administrative in nature; in which case the Chief Administrative Officer shall advise the originator that the communication is not being sent to the Council.

9.6 The order of business as established in this Bylaw shall apply for all regular Council meetings unless the members of Council present, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, agree to any change.

9.7 The order of business on the agenda shall be as follows:

- 1. Call to order with acknowledgement of meeting on Treaty 6 Territory
- 2. Additions and/or Deletions to Agenda
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 4. Public Hearing (if applicable)
- 5. Adoption of Previous Minutes
- 6. Delegations, Petitions or Presentations
- 7. Unfinished Business
- 8. Reports
- 9. Correspondence
- 10. New Business
- 11. Closed Session
- 12. Adjournment

9.8 Closed Session:

9.8.1 In a Closed Session items shall be distributed as follows:

- a. Confidential material, stamped or watermarked "Confidential" on each page, is to be distributed to each Council member after Council has passed a resolution to move into a Closed Session and all documents are to be returned to the Chief Administrative Officer or their designate at the conclusion of the Closed Session portion of the meeting;
- b. Confidential material, stamped or watermarked "Confidential" on each page, greater than ten (10) pages be distributed to each Council member electronically (packages to be digitized as "Read Only") uploaded to a secure server separate from the main agenda with password protection that limits access to Council members only by 4:30 P.M. the Friday prior to the meeting.

10. MINUTES

- 10.1 The Chief Administrative Officer may delegate any duties relating to Council to other administrative personnel, but shall accept all responsibilities of the duties.
- 10.2 If a member of Council arrives late, leaves before the meeting is adjourned, or is temporarily absent from the meeting, it shall be so recorded in the minutes.
- 10.3 The Chief Administrative Officer shall record in the minutes each time a member of Council is absent, and each time a member of Council refrains from discussion and voting by reason of absence or pecuniary interest as well as the general nature of the pecuniary.
- 10.4 The Chief Administrative Officer shall, whenever a recorded vote is requested by a member of Council, record in the minutes the name of each member of Council present and whether each member voted for or against the matter.
- 10.5 An administrative personnel shall record the motion to proceed to a Closed Session where Council shall state the section of the enabling *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- 10.6 An administrative personnel shall record the names of one or more persons attending the Closed Session along with stating the reason for their attendance in the minutes of the Council meeting.

11. DELEGATIONS, PETITIONS OR PRESENTATIONS

- 11.1 Delegations shall be received at regular Council meetings or Governance and Priorities Committee meetings.
- 11.2 When a person wishes to appear before the Council to present a petition or speak on behalf of a delegation the information will be submitted in accordance with Section 9.3 of this Bylaw and the presentation to Council shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, followed by questions from Council members. When individuals wish to appear before the Council during a Public Hearing, their appearance shall be limited to five (5) minutes.
- 11.3 The Delegations portion of Council meetings shall provide:
 - a. An opportunity for individuals to appear as a formal delegation (i.e., they have submitted information in accordance with Section 9.3 of this Bylaw and their submission has been included in the agenda package distributed to Council); and
- 11.4 All persons wishing to address Council will be required to give their name, topic of concern and whether there has been any previous contact with a member of Council or Administration regarding the matter.
- 11.5 In the event that all persons who expressed an interest to speak at a Council meeting cannot be heard within the allotted amount of time for presentations, they will be invited to attend and appear before the next regular Council meeting, otherwise a time extension beyond the fifteen (15) minutes is subject to the discretion of the Presiding Officer.
- 11.6 Council will not entertain submissions from the public on issues that are before the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, the courts, or require a statutory Public Hearing.



11.7 A response to each speaker's comments/concerns will be provided through one (1) or more of the following:

11.7.1 A resolution of Council at the regular Council meeting; or

11.7.2 Referral of the matter to the Chief Administrative Officer for review and recommendation at a subsequent time, depending on the significance of the issue and the time required to adequately research the matter.

11.8 Council shall hear no more than four (4) delegations at any one (1) meeting of Council unless Council allows otherwise. All rules of Council in this Procedural Bylaw shall apply to each and every member of the delegation.

12. GENERAL RULES OF COUNCIL

12.1 Meetings of Council shall adjourn at 11:00 P.M. if in session at that hour, unless the members of Council present, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, agree to extend the time.

12.2 Every person wishing to speak during a Council meeting shall address the Mayor or Presiding Officer. The address to the Mayor or Presiding Officer shall be "Your Worship" and no person shall be permitted to speak unless and until, that person has been recognized by the Presiding Officer; and then, only so long as all remarks are addressed to the Presiding Officer.

12.3 Council or Council Committee meetings may be filmed or recorded by accredited media upon written permission of Council.

12.4 Personal smartphones, tablets, recording devices and other electronic devices must be turned off or set in the silent mode prior to entering Council Chambers by members of the gallery, unless otherwise authorized by Council. Use of Smartphones, tablets, recording devices and other electronic devices by Council is prohibited. Signs advising members of the gallery are to be posted on restrictions on use of electronic devices in Council Chambers. The Mayor is to make note of Council Chamber restrictions at the start of each meeting.

12.5 A meeting may be adjourned by a motion or the declaration of the Presiding Officer. A declaration by the Mayor to adjourn a meeting may be appealed through a motion decided by a majority of members.

13. MOTIONS

13.1 The time limit for speaking shall be set at three (3) minutes and the number of times that a member may speak on the same motion or matter will be twice (2).

13.2 After a motion is made, it may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before a vote is taken or an amendment is made.

13.3 The Chief Administrative Officer shall record all motions in writing before the motion is debated or put to a vote.

13.4 All motions shall be stated by the Presiding Officer or Chief Administrative Officer before being debated or voted upon.

13.5 When speaking to a motion a member shall, before entering upon the substance of his remarks, state whether he is for or against the motion.

13.6 No motion shall be offered that is substantially the same as one that has already been expressed during the same meeting.

13.7 Where a matter under consideration contains several distinct propositions, a member may request, or the Mayor may direct, that each proposition be made as a separate motion.

13.8 After the vote has been called for by the Mayor or Presiding Officer, no member shall speak to the motion, nor shall any other motion be made until after the result of the vote has been declared.

- 13.9 Voting on all motions shall be done by clearly raising one (1) hand in such a clear manner that they may be easily counted by the Presiding Officer. When using electronic communications, the Mayor or Presiding Officer will ask whether the member is voting for or against the motion. After the Mayor or Presiding Officer has counted the vote, the Mayor or Presiding Officer shall declare whether it was "carried", "carried unanimously", or "defeated". Except where provided for in this Bylaw or by the applicable legislation, a majority vote of the members present who are eligible to vote, shall decide a question or motion before the Council. If the vote results in a tie, the motion will be considered defeated.

14. MOTIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

- 14.1 No motion will be made while a delegate is present.

- 14.2 All relevant parties must be notified in writing of the decision of Council.

- 14.3 When a motion has been made and is being considered by the Council, no other actions may be considered except:

- a. A motion to refer the motion to some other party for consideration, or to withdraw the motion;
- b. A motion to amend the motion;
- c. A motion to table the motion (the motion remains pending in order to address another urgent matter at that meeting);
- d. A motion to postpone the motion to a future date (not beyond the third month from when it was presented);
- e. A motion to adjourn the meeting, and any necessary resultant motion to postpone shall not be debated except as to the time when the matter will again be considered; or,
- f. A motion of privilege, an incidental or a subsidiary motion.
- g. When the Mayor or Presiding Officer is called on to decide a Point of order or practice, the point shall be stated clearly and without unnecessary comment, except to cite the specific departure from the Procedural Bylaw.
- h. The Mayor or Presiding Officer shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Council by resolution; and the decision of the Presiding Officer shall be final unless reversed by a majority vote of members present.
- i. A motion to appeal the decision of the Mayor is an appeal which Council must decide, and must be made before other business is resumed. If the decision of the Mayor is appealed, the Mayor shall give concise reasons for such ruling and Council, without debate, shall decide the question. The ruling of Council shall be final.

- 14.4 A motion to refer, adjourn, postpone or to table, until it is voted upon, shall preclude all amendments to the main motion. A motion to refer or postpone is debatable, while a motion to table is not. A motion to adjourn is not debatable except as allowed in Section 14.3(e) above.

- 14.5 Each motion to amend or motion to amend an amendment to a motion:

- a. Must be relevant to the motion on which it is proposed. Any amendment that raises a new question can only be considered as a new distinct motion;
- b. Must not propose a direct negative which would be considered out of order;
- c. Shall be put to the Council in the reverse order to that in which they are moved, and must be decided upon or withdrawn before the main question is put to a vote. Only one amendment at a time to the main motion shall be allowed; and, only one (1) amendment to an amendment shall be allowed at one (1) time;
- d. Shall not be moved by the original mover of the motion or the amendment;
- e. Must not enlarge the scope of the amendment (an amendment to an amendment), but should only deal with matters not covered by the original amendment;
- f. Shall only be sub-amended one (1) time. A request for a second amendment to an amendment would require the current motion to be defeated and a new motion to be moved.

- 14.6 A motion to reconsider a motion shall:

- a. only be made at the same meeting the motion was decided;
- b. only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side of the motion involved;
- c. not be proposed more than once for a specific motion at any one (1) meeting of Council;

- d. be decided by a majority of the members of Council present; and,
- e. not be allowed on a motion of adjournment.

14.7 A motion to rescind a previous motion of Council may:

- a. Be made by any member of the Council; and
 - i. be offered at any time subsequent to the meeting at which the original motion was passed;
 - ii. be passed by:
 - 1. a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of Council (who hold office at the time) when the motion is without notice; and
 - 2. a simple majority of the members of Council present when notice has been given. Notice shall be through a Notice of Motion or the inclusion of the item on an agenda delivered to the members of council before the meeting.

14.8 A motion to rescind a previous motion of Council as per Section 14.7 shall not be made:

- a. if the previous motion has not been acted upon to the extent that the Municipality has undertaken or become subject to any liability or obligation; or
- b. was not a motion for a reading of a bylaw.

14.9 A motion that will address a bylaw for first reading shall be decided without amendment or debate, but motions for subsequent readings are debatable. Each bylaw shall be read a first, second and third and final time before being signed by the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer. Unanimous agreement is required to have the third and final reading at the same meeting. A motion cannot amend or change a bylaw; only an amending bylaw can make the change.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

15.1 Council members may bring forward notices of motion as an item on the agenda of a regular Council meeting. Once the Notice of Motion is stated, it will be recorded in the meeting's minutes.

15.2 A written copy of the Notice of Motion shall be provided to the Chief Administrative Officer prior to the meeting's adjournment.

15.3 The Notice of Motion will be placed on the next regular Council Meeting agenda that the elected official who made the Notice of Motion is present, to vote whether the matter will proceed.

15.4 Once approved by Council, a Notice of Motion given at a regular Council meeting will be addressed in a time frame not beyond the end of the third month from when it was presented, unless Council directs differently.

15.5 A Notice of Motion cannot be made at a Special Council meeting.

15.6 A Notice of Motion is not debatable until a Council member moves the motion.

16. VOTING – PECUNIARY INTEREST

16.1 Members of Council who have a reasonable belief that they have a pecuniary interest (as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*) in any matter before Council, any Committee of Council or any Board, Commission, Committee or agency to which they are appointed as a representative of Council, shall, if present, declare and disclose the general nature of the pecuniary interest prior to any discussion of the matter, abstain from discussions or voting on any questions relating to the matter and shall remove themselves from the room until the matter is concluded.

16.2 Where the member of Council has left the meeting under Section 16.1:

- a. The reason for and time of the member of Council's departure, and return, if any, shall be recorded in the minutes;
- b. If Council amends the motion before it, Council shall recess to allow the Chief Administrative Officer to endeavour to advise the member of Council who has left the meeting of the amendment so that the Councillor may determine whether they remain in a conflict of interest; and

- c. Council shall not consider any other agenda item until the Chief Administrative Officer has endeavoured to advise the member of Council who left the meeting because of a conflict that there is a new agenda item before the meeting.

17. PETITIONS

- 17.1 Statutory petitions will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer and will be processed in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 17.2 On receipt of a non-statutory petition, the Chief Administrative Officer may do the following:
 - a. Include it as an item on the agenda for the next regular meeting of Council in full or summary form;
 - b. Refer it to administration for a report to Council or appropriate Council Committee;
 - c. Circulate it to the members of Council individually as information if it does not require any further action by Council.

18. COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

- 18.1 The Council shall appoint representatives to such Committees, Boards and Commissions as required by legislation, agreement or bylaw and as they deem necessary. Unless an immediate appointment is required mid-term, these appointments shall be made on an annual basis at the Organizational Meeting.
- 18.2 The Council may make appointments to a Committee at any time, providing that the Council has adopted a bylaw or resolution specifying the terms of reference of the Committee. Terms of reference will be adopted by bylaw if the Committee is being delegated budgetary responsibilities; whereas adoption through resolution may be used for other Committee's terms of reference.
- 18.3 A special Committee may be appointed at any time by the Council or by the Mayor acting upon the instructions of the Council, providing that a motion has been adopted specifying the matters to be dealt with by the Committee.
- 18.4 The business of standing and special Committees including Council Committee meetings in Closed Session, shall be conducted in accordance with the rules governing procedure in the Council, except that no motion need be recorded, no member shall be limited as to the number of times allowed to speak to the questions under consideration and no member may move the previous question.
- 18.5 It shall be the duty of the Chairman of each Board or Committee (or their designee) to summon members for meetings.
- 18.6 The Mayor shall be ex-officio member of all Council Committees and bodies which Council has a right to appoint members under the *Municipal Government Act* (does not apply to certain Committees, e.g. Subdivision Development Appeal Board, Assessment Review Board, etc.); and should they so desire, may direct another Councillor to attend a meeting in their place.
- 18.7 Appointed Council members shall keep the rest of the Council informed of the actions of Committees or Boards to which they are appointed by Council, by providing regular activity highlights through their written Councillors' reports.

19. BYLAWS

- 19.1 Bylaws shall be passed in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 19.2 Every proposed bylaw must have three (3) distinct and separate readings.
- 19.3 If a bylaw fails to receive third reading, it shall remain on the agenda to be dealt with at the next regular meeting of Council.
- 19.4 A proposed bylaw must not have more than two (2) readings at a Council meeting unless the Councillors present unanimously agree to consider third reading at that meeting.
- 19.5 Every bylaw which has been passed by Council shall immediately after being signed be securely filed.



19.6 The Presiding Officer shall initial each page of the passed bylaw.

20. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 20.1 The conduct of any Public Hearing shall be governed by the *Municipal Government Act* and this Bylaw.
- 20.2 Public Hearings shall be advertised to the public in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 20.3 Wherever possible, persons interested in speaking at a Public Hearing should register with the Chief Administrative Officer prior to the Public Hearing.
- 20.4 The Mayor shall declare the Public Hearing in session and shall outline the Public Hearing Procedures.
- 20.5 The Chief Administrative Officer shall introduce the resolution or bylaw and shall briefly state the intended purpose. Department presentations shall follow the introduction of the bylaw or resolution.
- 20.6 The Mayor shall request those who wish to make presentations to identify themselves. The Mayor shall then open the floor to public presentations.
- 20.7 The Mayor shall call upon those persons who have registered with the Chief Administrative Officer to speak first, followed by other persons at the meeting who have not registered to speak but who wish to address Council. A person who does not identify himself or herself will not be given the opportunity to speak.
- 20.8 Presentations by the public may be made verbally, in writing, or both. Written submissions shall be collected by the Chief Administrative Officer and retained for information purposes.
- 20.9 Verbal presentations shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless there is consent by Council to extend the allotted time.
- 20.10 Following public presentations, the Mayor shall close the Public Hearing.
- 20.11 If no one is present to speak to a proposed bylaw which requires a Public Hearing, Council may hear an introduction of the matter from administration, ask relevant questions, and then must vote to close the Public Hearing.
- 20.12 After the close of the Public Hearing, Council may debate matters raised at the Public Hearing during the regular Council meeting following the Public Hearing and may;
 - a. pass the bylaw or resolution; or
 - b. make any necessary amendments to the bylaw or resolution and pass it without further advertisement or hearing.
- 20.13 When a Public hearing on a proposed bylaw or resolution is held, a Member:
 - a. must abstain from voting on the bylaw or resolution if the member was absent from all of the Public Hearing; and
 - b. may abstain from voting on the bylaw or resolution if the member was only absent from a part of the Public Hearing.

21. GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

- 21.1 There shall be a Governance and Priorities Committee comprising all Councillors.
- 21.2 The general responsibility of the Governance and Priorities Committee shall be to analyze any and all matters placed before it, as set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, and indicate to Council by recommendation the ways and means of dealing with the said matters before it and to advise the course of action.



21.3 Subject to the Act, the Governance and Priorities Committee may consider any matter that Council may consider, including but not limited to discussion and debate of the following matters:

- a. Budget;
- b. Audit;
- c. Transportation issues;
- d. Development issues;
- e. Strategic planning;
- f. Legislative reform;
- g. Policing matters;
- h. Policy formulation; and
- i. Corporate planning.

21.4 The Governance and Priorities Committee may:

- a. Conduct non-statutory public hearings;
- b. Receive delegations and submissions;
- c. Meet with other municipalities and other levels of government; and
- d. Recommend appointments of members of the public to Council Committees, or other Committees and other bodies on which the Town is entitled to have representation.

21.5 Council may receive briefings in Governance and Priorities Committee meetings.

21.6 In addition to the restrictions contained in the *Municipal Government Act*, the Governance and Priorities Committee shall not hold statutory public hearings.

21.7 The Governance and Priorities Committee may make the following motions:

- a. To receive agenda reports as information
- b. To refer matters to administration or a Committee for further review.
- c. To direct that the matter be brought to Council for consideration.

21.8 A quorum of the Governance and Priorities Committee is a majority of Councillors.

21.9 At a Governance and Priorities Committee meeting, the procedures of Council shall be relaxed as follows:

- a. A Councillor may speak even though there is no motion on the floor, but if there is a motion on the floor a Councillor shall only address that motion;
- b. A Councillor may speak more than once, on a matter provided that each Councillor who wishes to speak to the matter has already been permitted to do so;
- c. No notice need be given of any motion to be made.

21.10 The Governance and Priorities Committee may consider a matter in Closed Session, in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.A., 2000, c-F-25.

21.11 No motions may be made when the Governance and Priorities Committee is sitting in Closed Session in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.A., 2000, c-F-25 except motions to reconvene the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

22. MISCELLANEOUS

22.1 No member shall:

- a. use offensive words in or against the Council;
- b. speak to a subject except upon the question in debate;
- c. reflect upon any vote of Council except for the purpose of moving that such a vote be rescinded or reconsidered; or
- d. resist the rules of the Council or disobey the decision of the Mayor or of the Council on any question of order or practice or upon the interpretation of the rules of the Council. If any member shall so resist or disobey, they may be ordered by a majority vote of the Council to leave their seat for that meeting and should they refuse to do so, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor



or other Presiding Officer may request that they be removed by law enforcement. Should the offender provide an ample apology they may, by majority vote of the Council, (without debate), be permitted to return to their seat.

22.2 Council may adjourn from time to time to a fixed future date, any regular or special meeting of Council which has been duly convened but not terminated. The object of adjourning is to finish the business which the meeting was called, but which has not been completed.

22.3 No member of the Council shall have the power to direct or interfere with the performance of any work of the Corporation. Council members may seek information through the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

23. SEVERABILITY

23.1 If any portion of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the Bylaw is deemed valid.

24. REPEAL

24.1 Bylaw No. 05-2020 is hereby repealed.

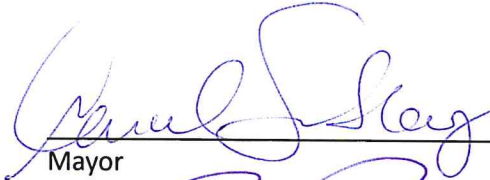
25. EFFECTIVE DATE

25.1 This by law shall come into full force and effect on the date of its final passing.

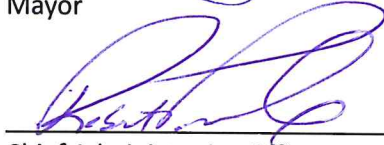
Read a first time this 4th day of October, 20 21.

Read a second time this 4th day of October, 20 21.

Read a third and final time this 4th day of October, 20 21.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer





What every councillor needs to know

A council member's handbook

What every councillor needs to know: A council member's handbook | Municipal Affairs

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Introduction

Congratulations on your election to council. This booklet presents an overview of your responsibilities as a municipal councillor and is intended to help you understand the powers and duties of a municipal council.

History of Local Government in Alberta

The first local government election in Alberta was held in 1883 under the Northwest Municipal Ordinance. Rural local government began with herd districts in 1883, fire districts in 1886, and statute districts in 1887, which were combined into local improvement districts in 1897. Urban local government began with unincorporated town ordinances in 1888. The village ordinance followed in 1895.

In 1912, separate acts were put in place for towns, villages, rural municipal districts, and improvement districts. Cities were incorporated by special charter.

Municipal Government Act

In 1967, the various pieces of municipal legislation were consolidated into the original *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*.

In 1994, a further consolidation and revision of municipal legislation took place. The 1994 revisions gave municipalities greater autonomy in local decision making and incorporated the provisions of the former *Planning Act*.

The current *MGA* is the primary statute governing the affairs of your municipality. The *MGA* has undergone extensive review and amendments. Your chief administrative officer (CAO) should provide you with a copy.

Section 3 of the *MGA* states the purposes of a municipality are:

- to provide good government;
- to foster the well-being of the environment;
- to foster the economic development of the municipality;
- to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality;
- to develop and maintain safe and viable communities; and
- to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services.

A municipality is a corporation and has the powers of a natural person, except to the extent that those powers are limited by the *MGA* or any other enactment. The introduction of natural person powers provides council with a great deal of flexibility in terms of how the municipality is organized and administered, what services are provided, and how those services are delivered.

The power to pass bylaws is stated in general terms. This gives councils broad authority and respects their right to govern the municipality in the way that council considers appropriate within the jurisdiction provided under the *MGA*. However, bylaws authorized by the *MGA* or any other enactment are subordinate to federal and provincial legislation and regulations.

Council Roles and Responsibilities

Council is the governing body of the municipal corporation and the custodian of its legislative powers. As a councillor, you will exercise the powers of the municipality through decisions made at council meetings and define the policies and direction your municipal administration will put into action.

The *MGA* provides that councils can only exercise the powers of the municipal corporation in the proper form, either by bylaw or by resolution. What this means is that no individual or group of councillors can make a decision or ask administration to take action; this can only be done through an appropriate bylaw or resolution passed at a public meeting of council where quorum is present.

Your job as a councillor is to work with other council members to set the overall direction of the municipality through your role as a policy maker. The policies council sets are the guidelines for administration to follow as it handles the operations of the municipality. Much of your time on council will be spent considering new policies and programs and reviewing the current ones to make sure they are working as they should.

Councillor Duties

Under Section 153 of the *MGA*, all councillors have the following duties:

- to consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
- to promote an integrated and strategic approach to intermunicipal land use planning and service delivery with neighbouring municipalities;
- to participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality;
- to participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council;
- to obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the chief administrative officer or a person designated by the chief administrative officer;
- to keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public; and
- to perform any other duty or function imposed on councillors by this or any other enactment or by the council.

Code of Conduct

All code of conduct provisions within the *MGA* have been repealed. Further, a council may not make a bylaw or a resolution that addresses the behaviour or conduct of councillors or of members of council committees who are not councillors.

Councillor Liability

As you carry out these duties, the question of liability may arise as a result of your actions; however, Section 535 of the *MGA* was written to protect you from personal liability while acting in good faith for your municipality. This section does not apply in circumstances of defamation and does not protect the municipal corporation from any such liability.

There are several provisions in the *MGA* that impose liability on a councillor. One of these is found in Section 249 which deals with unauthorized expenditures and is discussed later in more detail under "Procedure for Expenditure Authorization." Another is found in Section 275 which deals with borrowings, loans, or guarantees

that cause the municipality to exceed its debt limit, and is discussed later in more detail under the section titled “Borrowing.”

While it is important to be aware of these liabilities, they should not be a concern as long as the municipality follows appropriate processes.

The Chief Elected Official

(MGA Sections 150, 154 and 155)

The chief elected official (CEO), in addition to performing a councillor's duties, must preside when attending a council meeting unless a bylaw provides otherwise. The CEO must also perform any other duty imposed under the *MGA* or any other enactment. In practice, the CEO is also generally the main spokesperson for the municipality, unless that duty is delegated to another councillor. The title CEO may be changed to one that council believes is appropriate to the office, such as mayor or reeve.

The CEO of a city or town is elected by a vote of a municipality's electors, unless council passes a bylaw requiring council to appoint the CEO from among the councillors. In a village, summer village, or municipal district, council appoints the CEO from among the councillors unless it passes a bylaw providing that the official is to be elected by a vote of the municipality's electors.

Orientation and Training Opportunities

(MGA Section 201.1)

Understanding the relationships, roles and the responsibilities of an elected official and the associated limitations, will be critical to your success in the position. Municipalities are required to offer orientation training and each councillor is required to attend the orientation training offered [**Section 201.1(1)**]. The topics that must be covered are broken into two parts.

The first part of the training must be held prior to, or on the same day as, the organizational meeting following a general election. In the case of a by-election, this first training session must be attended on or before the day the councillor takes the oath of office.

The topics in the first part of the training that must be covered are:

- the role of municipalities in Alberta;
- municipal organization and function;
- roles and responsibilities of council and councillors; and
- roles and responsibilities of the CAO and staff.

Training on the second group of topics must be attended prior to, or on the same day as, the first regularly scheduled council meeting, or in the case of a councillor elected via by-election, within 90 days of taking the oath of office.

The topics in the second part that must be covered are:

- key municipal plans, policies and projects;
- budgeting and financial administration;
- public participation; and
- any other topic prescribed by the regulations.

Council has the authority to extend the time for the second part of training by resolution for up to 90 days [**Section 201.1(2)**].

Within 90 days of taking office, all newly elected municipal chief elected officials and councillors must also complete required online emergency management training offered by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. More information can be found at www.alberta.ca/training-requirements-and-mandatory-exercises.

Your associations, Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta, offer educational sessions for elected officials. They also offer conferences throughout the year that will provide invaluable information and networking opportunities.

If you are newly elected, attending training, conferences, and workshops is an excellent way to obtain the information you need to serve effectively. If you are a returning councillor, your knowledge and experience hold significant value for new councillors.

Policy-Making and Program Monitoring

Council is responsible for considering the types and levels of services that are necessary or desirable for the municipality. This responsibility involves providing input regarding the municipality's programs and services (policy making) and making sure administration provides the programs and services in the best possible way (program monitoring).

Policy making provides a way of ensuring that consistent decisions are made on similar matters. Policies should establish general guidelines that council sets for administration to follow. Administration then provides programs and services to the residents according to those policies.

Program monitoring involves staying up to date on the programs and services the municipality offers and assessing the results against what council planned to achieve.

The Entire Municipality

As a councillor, you are elected to look after the interests of the entire municipality. If you are a councillor in a municipality that has wards, you will have to be careful you do not place the interest of the ward or electoral division above the interest of the whole municipality. As difficult as it may be at times, you must base any decision you make on what is best for the entire municipality. Council's effectiveness depends on you providing input as a representative of your area, while thinking and voting for the needs of the whole municipality.

Time Management

As a council member, there will be significant demands on your time. There will be council, council committees, and various other meetings to attend. To participate effectively in all these meetings, you should review meeting materials and become familiar with the issues that will be discussed. Conferences and workshops sponsored by the municipal associations or educational institutions will help provide you with the tools to be an effective elected official. If you choose to attend, these will also help you to understand the wider picture on issues affecting the whole province or other municipalities. Telephone calls, visits from your electors, and community events are all important components of the job. Managing time to adequately deal with both personal and public demands is an important part of becoming an effective member of council.

Team Approach

Working as a team with the rest of council and administration will contribute to making your time on council a success. It may not always be easy. Your influence as a council member rests on your ability to persuade other members of council to consider your point of view. When an issue is being studied, be sure to express your views as part of the debate.

Disagreements among council members on specific issues are common and healthy. The respectful exchange of ideas and opinions will lead to good decisions. While working through these debates, keep in mind that you all share the same desire for your municipality to be strong, safe, and viable. You may have different views about how to get there, but you do share broader common goals.

Most votes on a council resolution do not require a consensus of all councillors. As a result, there will be many occasions where a decision is made that you did not support with your vote. However, once the resolution has been passed, it becomes the official direction of the municipality. The health and ongoing success of a municipality is largely dependent upon the ability of councillors to respect and support the decisions of council in principle, despite their personal views during the debate.

Some municipalities have a communications policy in place in addition to the code of conduct bylaw that directs media through prescribed channels. Becoming familiar with communications procedures will allow you, council, and administration to work as a team and deliver a cohesive message.

Oath of Office

(MGA Section 156)

Before taking part in your first council meeting, you will be required to make and subscribe to the official oath. By taking the oath, you swear or declare that you will diligently, faithfully, and to the best of your ability, fulfill the duties of the office to which you have been elected.

Organizational Meeting

(MGA Sections 159 and 192)

The first meeting of council will be the organizational meeting, held within two weeks of the general election (or by August 31 for a summer village), or sooner if an election was not required. This marks the official commencement of your term of office and the completion of the previous council's term. This meeting allows council to address preliminary matters such as electing a CEO if necessary, electing a deputy CEO, and commonly includes appointing people to the various committees and other bodies associated with council. If other regular business is to be conducted, the organizational meeting must be adjourned, and the regular meeting convened and recorded as a separate meeting.

Procedural Bylaw

(MGA Section 145)

Your municipality may have a procedural bylaw to provide a standard format for council meetings and make it easier for members of council, staff, media, and the public to understand the decision-making process. A procedural bylaw may provide for naming and prescribing the responsibilities of council committees, provide for the order of business and method of distributing the agenda for council meetings, set rules regarding the proceedings at regular meetings of council, and describe how items may be put on the council agenda.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has the authority to establish standard council meeting procedures via Ministerial Order. Municipalities may still adopt their own procedural bylaws, but these bylaws must not conflict with the Ministerial Order, if one is created.

Regular and Special Meetings

(MGA Sections 153, 181, 193, 194, 196, 197, 198, and 199)

It is up to council to decide how many meetings are needed to govern the affairs of the municipality. The decision to hold regular meetings must be made at a meeting with all councillors present. The time and place of a regular meeting can be changed by resolution of council. While all councillors do not have to be at the meeting to change the time or place, all councillors and public must be given 24 hours notice of the change.

All council and council committee meetings must be open to the public, except as noted in the following section. Only people who have been expelled from the meeting because of improper conduct have no right to attend. The provisions of the *MGA* regarding public presence at meetings are intended to promote public involvement and the accountability of the local government process.

The timing of regular council meetings does not always align with urgent business that requires council attention. There will be times when a special council meeting is required. Section 194 of the *MGA* states that a special meeting may be called if the CEO believes one is needed and must be called if a majority of councillors request one in writing.

Council and council committees can hold meetings by means of electronic or other communication facilities if a bylaw has been passed in accordance with section 199. Notice must be given to the public of such a meeting, including the way it will be conducted. The facilities must enable all persons attending a meeting to hear and communicate with each other during the course of the meeting.

To enable greater public participation in public hearings, recent changes to the *MGA* require municipalities to offer electronic options for public hearings on planning and development matters. This may include using a telephone, or online options. Electronic options for public hearings will ensure more residents are aware and informed of, and may participate in, local planning and development matters.

Meetings Closed to the Public

There are times when council or a council committee must discuss something in private. Personnel matters, where it would be unfair to the people involved to have the issue discussed in public, are a common example. To recognize specific circumstances that necessitate confidentiality of council discussions, Section 197(2) of the *MGA* allows meetings (or portions of meetings) that are closed to the public where the subject matter falls within one of the exceptions to disclosure in the *Access to Information Act*. The exceptions include matters where disclosures could be harmful to personal privacy, individual or public safety, law enforcement, intergovernmental relations, or economic or other interests; reveal confidential evaluations, local public confidences, or advice from officials; or disclose information that is subject to legal privilege.

Resolutions or bylaws cannot be passed while in a closed session, other than a motion to proceed with the meeting in an open session. Any decisions must still be made at a meeting open to the public. Under Section 153 of the *MGA*, councillors are required to keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting. They must keep this confidence until the matter is discussed at a meeting held in public.

Voting

(MGA Sections 183, 184, 185, and 172)

You are on council to make decisions. Under the *MGA*, you are required to vote on all resolutions and bylaws unless you are required or permitted to abstain from voting under other legislated provisions. Council must ensure that each abstention and the reason for it are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

If there is a public hearing on a proposed bylaw or resolution, you must abstain from voting on the bylaw or resolution if you were absent from all of a public hearing, and you may abstain if you were absent for a part of a public hearing. Section 172 of the *MGA* states that you must abstain from voting on matters in which you have a pecuniary (monetary) interest. You may also choose to abstain from voting if you believe you have, or it may be perceived you have, a conflict of interest (Section 172.1(1)).

At any time before a vote is taken, you may request that the vote be recorded. The minutes must show the names of the councillors present and how they voted.

Each councillor has one vote. A resolution is passed by receiving the majority of votes from the councillors in attendance at the meeting. When there is a tie vote on a motion, the motion is defeated.

Quorum must be present at a council meeting for any resolution or bylaw to be valid. A quorum is a majority of councillors making up the municipal council. For example, if your council consists of seven councillors (including the CEO), four councillors would constitute a quorum.

Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

(*MGA* Sections 170, 172 and 172.1)

Membership on council is a position of public trust. The *MGA* describes pecuniary interest and sets out the procedure you must follow if a matter in which you have a pecuniary interest comes up at a meeting in which you are participating as a member of council. Failure to follow these procedures can lead to disqualification.

The *MGA* was also recently amended to address non-pecuniary conflicts of interest. If a matter arises where a councillor believes they have, or will be perceived to have, a conflict of interest, they may disclose the general nature of the conflict before or during discussion on the matter. If the general nature of the conflict is disclosed, councillors may then abstain from a vote or discussions on the matter. Further information on this can be found in the "Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest for Municipal Councillors" resource available online at [Pecuniary and conflict of interest for councillors - Open Government](#).

Council Committees

(*MGA* Sections 145 and 203)

Council may create council committees, by bylaw, and appoint committee members. Council may decide to create a temporary committee to look at a specific issue. There may also be standing committees that run from year to year to deal with ongoing issues.

Committees can play a bigger role in making decisions on issues for council. If council wants a committee to make decisions, council may delegate some of its powers to the committee by bylaw. If a committee makes a decision delegated to it by council, it is then as if the council made the decision itself. Some council decisions, such as passing bylaws or adopting the budget, cannot be delegated to a committee.

If council is part of an emergency services committee, you may have some specific responsibilities in the case of a local emergency. You need to know what those responsibilities are and how they are to be carried out. The system of emergency response is described in the *Emergency Management Act*.

Municipal Organization and Administration

A vital part of the smooth operation of municipal government is the interaction between council and administration. Understanding how administration works will help you carry out your role as a municipal councillor.

Your administration exists to take care of the everyday work of running a municipal government. This includes providing a variety of programs and services based on the priorities council has set for the municipality. As a councillor, residents will ask you for information on the municipality's programs and services. Your most important contact is the CAO.

Chief Administrative Officer

(MGA Sections 205, 205.1, 207, 208, 208.1 and 209)

Every council must establish, by bylaw, a position of chief administrative officer (CAO) and appoint one person to carry out the powers, duties and functions of the position. Council may give the position an appropriate title. The CAO is the administrative head of the municipality and is directly responsible to council for the operational performance of the organization. The CAO is responsible to implement the decisions of council, implement the municipality's policies and programs, advise and inform council on the operation of the municipality, and perform any other duties assigned by council. The CAO, together with the administrative team, will also provide advice, information, and recommendations to council on any matters that council is dealing with.

Successful municipalities have found that clear lines of communication and accountability are essential for effective operation. This is generally achieved when the CAO is provided with the authority to take council direction (through resolutions and bylaws) and implement that direction through the administrative team. Although well intentioned, individual councillor's attempts to become involved by providing direction to the administrative team can blur this accountability. It is important for council to develop a strong working relationship with the CAO based on mutual respect and trust and allow the CAO to direct and set priorities for the administrative team.

A performance appraisal system for the CAO is a key building block for a lasting and positive relationship between council and the CAO. Even though the current relationship may be good, a formal appraisal process provides the opportunity to discuss opportunities for improvement. The *MGA*, therefore, requires that council provide the CAO with an annual written performance evaluation.

Designated Officers

(MGA Sections 209 and 210)

A CAO may delegate any of their powers, duties, or functions to a designated officer or an employee. Designated officer positions are established by bylaw and are subject to the CAO's supervision, unless otherwise provided by bylaw. A designated officer may also delegate any of those powers, duties, or functions to an employee of the municipality.

Policies

The importance of policies will become apparent the first time you try to find out if a past council established guidelines on a certain matter. Most successful municipalities maintain a policy manual or files together with an index to enable easy reference. Policies should be approved by council and periodically reviewed and updated to ensure that they continue to be relevant.

Organizational Chart

Most municipalities maintain an organizational chart of the administration structure. A review of the organizational chart will help you to understand the types of functions and services the municipality provides, and how it is organized to deliver those services.

Staff Development

Your human resources are as important as your financial resources. A variety of educational opportunities are available for both new and experienced municipal administrators. The most successful municipalities encourage staff development and training to ensure their employees can effectively carry out their duties and stay familiar with new developments in the field of municipal administration.

Finance

Almost everything the municipality is engaged in will have a cost associated with it. You will spend a lot of time on council assessing the financial implications of decisions.

Operating and Capital Budgets

(MGA Sections 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, and 247)

The budget is the center of the municipal finance system. Service delivery and project development are always subject to constraints, but financial constraints are generally the most limiting. As a result, the priorities of council will necessarily be reflected in the funding priorities established in the budget. Through the budget, council sets the municipality's priorities for the next year (or number of years) by allocating funding for each program, service, or project. Careful and realistic budget planning and control can translate into better and more cost-effective services for the community.

Many municipalities have a strategic plan that maps out longer term goals and identifies the municipality's priorities over several years. A strategic plan can provide year-to-year guidance and direction to the annual budget process and provides the longer-term context for annual goals.

The *MGA* requires that every municipality adopt an annual operating and a capital budget. Property and business tax bylaws cannot be passed until both budgets have been adopted. It should be noted that municipalities are not allowed to budget for a deficit; however, sometimes unexpected circumstances may result in the municipality having a deficit at year end. If the deficit does not cause the municipality to have an overall accumulated deficit, net of the value of tangible capital assets, then the municipality remains on-side with legislative requirements and can budget to recover that deficit in future years as council sees fit.

The operating budget is a detailed estimate of how much your municipality needs to spend to meet its ongoing financial obligations and provide programs and services to the residents. The capital budget identifies the sources and uses of funding for fixed assets such as buildings, roads, vehicles, water and sewer facilities, and land.

Long Range Financial Plans

A long-range capital infrastructure plan, covering at least three to five years, is required to receive provincial Local Government Fiscal Framework grant funding. The plan should set out what capital expenditures are needed and when, the future cost of maintaining the asset, when it has been built or purchased, and how the assets will be financed. Additionally, municipalities are required to have at minimum, a three-year financial plan and five-year

capital plan. These plans allow council to see the long-term impact of decisions made today, ensuring council is considering the continued sustainability of the municipality when making financial decisions.

The budget is a plan of council expenditures and revenues over the course of the year. Council needs to keep an eye on what is happening to make sure the municipal operations match the budget. It is recommended that council receive regular financial reports at least quarterly from administration that compare actual results to the budget. Financial reports are a good source of information and budget control.

Procedure for Expenditure Authorization

(MGA Sections 248 and 249)

Each council must establish procedures to authorize and verify expenditures that are not included in a budget. If you, as a councillor, make an unauthorized expenditure, or vote to spend granted or borrowed funds for a purpose other than that for which they were granted or borrowed, you could be held personally liable under section 249 of the *MGA* for the amount of the expenditure, grant, or borrowing.

Borrowing

(MGA Sections 249, 252, and 275)

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has, by regulation, established municipal debt and debt service limits. If a municipality is within its limits, no provincial approvals are required for borrowing, but the Minister's approval is required for any borrowing beyond the regulated debt limits. If you vote for a borrowing that puts the municipality above the regulated debt or debt service limit, you could be held personally liable for the amount of the borrowing, unless the borrowing is approved by the Minister.

Auditor

(MGA Sections 276, 277, 278, and 280; Alberta Regulation 313/2000)

Each council must appoint an auditor for the municipality and must submit audited financial statements and an audited financial information return to the Minister of Municipal Affairs by May 1 of each year. In addition, the financial statements or a summary of them must be made available to the public by May 1 of each year. The financial statements must disclose the municipality's debt limits, as well as the salaries of the CEO, individual councillors, the CAO, and the designated officers of the municipality.

Property Assessment, Taxation, and Other Revenues

Assessment

(MGA Sections 285, 298, 454, 454.1, 454.2, 454.3, 460, 460.1, 468, and 470)

Property assessment is the process of assigning a dollar value to a property for taxation purposes. In Alberta, property is taxed based on the ad valorem principle. Ad valorem means "according to value." This means that the amount of tax paid is based on the value of the property.

Each municipality is responsible for ensuring that each property owner pays their share of taxes. Property assessment is the method used to distribute the tax burden among property owners in a municipality.

The market value based standard is used to determine the assessed values for the majority of properties in Alberta. Market value is the price a property might reasonably be expected to sell for if sold by a willing seller to a willing buyer after appropriate time and exposure in an open market.

Some types of properties are difficult to assess using a market value based assessment standard because they seldom trade in the marketplace (and when they do trade, the sale price usually includes non-assessable items that are difficult to separate from the sale price); they cross municipalities and municipal boundaries; or they are of a unique nature. Municipal Affairs prescribes rates and procedures to assess these types of properties, which are referred to as “regulated property”. Rates and procedures are determined by what a type of property is used for, its activity, or its production capability. There are four types of regulated property:

1. Farmland;
2. Designated industrial property;
3. Machinery and equipment; and
4. Railway property.

Assessments for all types of property are prepared by professional certified assessors. Assessors receive training in a variety of areas including property valuation techniques, legislation, and quality assurance. The assessor designated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs assesses designated industrial property, while assessors employed or contracted by municipalities assess all other types of property. Under provincial legislation, a municipality must establish, by bylaw, the position of assessor, and appoint an individual to the position. An appointed municipal assessor is responsible for the completion of a number of tasks laid out by provincial legislation and regulations.

After the assessed value of a property has been determined, the property is assigned an assessment class. The assessment class determines the tax rate that will be applied to each property, as assessment classes may have different tax rates.

The assessor for the municipality is responsible for assigning the assessment classes to property. Property is classified according to its actual use. The classes are set out in the *MGA*. They are:

- Class 1 – residential;
- Class 2 – non-residential;
- Class 3 – farmland; and
- Class 4 – machinery and equipment.

Each year, every municipality is required to send an assessment notice to every assessed person listed on the assessment roll. Each municipality must publish a notification in one issue of a local newspaper to announce that the assessment notices have been mailed to property owners within the municipality.

To ensure property owners have a voice in the property assessment system, the *MGA* has set out a complaints and appeals system for property owners who have concerns about their assessment.

The process involves filing a complaint with the municipality’s assessment review board. The type of property the complaint is about will determine the type of assessment review board that will hear the complaint. Residential property with three or fewer dwelling units, farmland, or a tax notice other than a property tax notice will be heard by a Local Assessment Review Board. Residential property with four or more dwelling units or non-residential property will be heard by a Composite Assessment Review Board. If the taxpayer believes an error in law or jurisdiction has been made by the assessment review board, the decision may be appealed to the Court of King’s Bench of Alberta.

Property Taxation

(*MGA* Sections 242, 297, 318, 354, 355, 356, and 359.1)

Each year, municipal councils determine the amount of money they need to operate their municipality through the budget process. From this amount, the council then subtracts known revenues (for example, licenses, grants, and

permits). The remainder is the amount of money the municipality needs to raise through property taxes to provide services for the year.

This revenue requirement is then used to calculate the tax rate. The tax rate is the percentage of assessed value at which each property is taxed in a municipality. The revenue requirement is divided by the assessment base (the total value of all assessed properties in the municipality).

The tax rate calculation is expressed in the following formula:

$$\text{Revenue requirement} / \text{Assessment base} = \text{Tax rate.}$$

The tax rate is applied to each individual property assessment using the following formula:

$$\text{Property assessment} \times \text{Tax rate} = \text{Taxes payable.}$$

Council is required to pass a property tax bylaw annually (Section 353). Council may set different municipal tax rates for each of the four assessment classes once each year; however, the difference between non-residential and residential tax rates can be no more than 5:1. Council may also set different tax rates for vacant and improved non-residential property and for different sub-classes of residential property, if the municipality has, by bylaw, established sub-classes of residential assessment.

If, after sending out the tax notices, the municipality discovers an error or omission in the tax rates, the bylaw can be amended to correct the error, new tax notices sent out and a copy of the new bylaw must be provided to the Minister within 30 days.

In addition to municipal tax rates, municipalities must set tax rates to raise funds that are requisitioned for cost sharing programs such as the Alberta School Foundation Fund. This is discussed in the next section.

For more information on Property Assessment and Taxation, visit alberta.ca/municipal-property-assessment.

Education Tax and Equalized Assessment

(MGA Sections 318, 359.1 and 359.2; School Act: Part 6 Division 3, Section 174; Alberta Regulation 22/2004-Sec 10)

Property assessment is used as the basis on which to requisition property taxes from all or a number of municipalities for the financial support of several regional and provincial programs. Equalized assessment is a process that levels the playing field for municipalities so property tax requisitions and grants can be fairly allocated.

Just as property owners pay taxes in proportion to the value of the property they own, municipalities are required to contribute to the provincial education and other requisitions based on the proportion of assessment within their jurisdictions. Equalized assessments are used to determine the specific contributions to be made by each municipality, and they are also used in formulas for provincial grants to municipalities.

Intermunicipal fairness and equity is important when requisitioning property taxes from municipalities or calculating grants. In this regard, it is usually necessary to make some adjustments in the assessment base figures that each municipality reports to the province before those assessments are used to determine each municipality's contribution to a regional or provincial program, or its equitable share of grant dollars. These adjustments are made through the equalized assessment process.

The MGA requires that most properties be assessed at market value. Ideally, all properties would be assessed at 100 per cent of market value. In practice, assessments may vary from market value to a limited degree. Because this variance may occur, equalization is used to adjust each municipality's assessments to 100 per cent of market

value. The equalization process removes the variations in assessment levels to make the assessment bases more comparable among municipalities. The process produces a set of adjusted, or “equalized,” assessments that can then be used to distribute requisitions or allocate grants among municipalities in a fair and equitable manner.

For more information on Equalized Assessment, visit: open.alberta.ca/publications/5333000.

Other Taxes and Revenues

(MGA Sections 7, 360, 371, 381, 382, 388, 393, and 399)

In addition to the property tax levy, a municipality may impose a business tax, a special tax, or a local improvement tax. As well, the MGA provides for taxes within a business improvement area and on well drilling equipment (although the well drilling tax rate has been set at zero and is not expected to be reinstated).

Under Section 360 of the MGA, franchise agreements may exist between a municipality and a utility service (power, gas, cable, telephone) that, among other things, provide for the payment of a franchise fee. The fee is usually a percentage of the distribution charges levied by the utility company, and is a rate set for rent of the municipal rights-of-way, the exclusive franchise rights granted within a municipality, and the property taxes that would otherwise be paid by the utility.

There are other sources of revenue available, mainly user fees. Utility charges for water, sewer treatment, and garbage collection are common in Alberta municipalities. Council may want to develop a policy setting the rates based on the degree of cost recovery considered desirable (full cost recovery is normal for utilities). Fees can also be set for other services, such as recreational facilities, photocopying, or meeting room rentals.

Municipal Grants Listing

Information on all provincial and federal grant programs supporting municipalities is available at: municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/all-grants.

This website includes:

- a brief description of the program, including the type of projects supported and the eligibility requirements;
- information on which ministry administer the program; and
- links to program websites.

Municipal Grant Funding Reports

Information on provincial and federal grant dollars provided to Alberta municipalities and summary reports of grants provided by Government of Alberta ministries by grant type is available at: alberta.ca/lookup/grant-funding-reports.aspx.

The [Provincial Priorities Act, 2024](#) requires provincial entities to obtain prior approval from the Government of Alberta government before entering into, amending, extending or renewing an agreement with the federal government.

Planning and Development

Council shapes the physical future of the community through its authority over land-use planning and development; this authority is exercised through statutory plans, the land use bylaw, and other bylaws and policies. It is the responsibility of council to focus on the future of the community, while balancing the current

rights, needs and concerns of property owners and residents. A number of tools are available to council for this purpose.

Alberta Land Stewardship Act Regional Plan

(*ALSA* Sections 20, 21, and 22; *MGA* Sections 618.3 and 618.4.)

If an *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA)* regional plan is approved or amended, municipalities within an applicable *ALSA* regional plan are required to review their regulatory instruments, such as but not limited to, existing statutory plans, the land-use bylaw, policies and procedures, and make any amendments to comply with the *ALSA* regional plan. After the review, municipalities are required to file a statutory declaration with the Land Use Secretariat stating that the review is complete, and that the municipality is 'in compliance' with the regional plan. The *ALSA* regional plan establishes the time within which municipalities must review and amend existing planning documents to show compliance.

Where there is an approved *ALSA* regional plan, municipal council, the subdivision authority, development authority, municipal planning commission, subdivision and development appeal board, etc., within that region must act in accordance with the applicable *ALSA* regional plan's regulation and policies. Note- as of December 2024, regional plans are in place in the South Saskatchewan and the Lower Athabasca regions.

Intermunicipal Development Plan

(*MGA* Sections 631, 636, 637 and 638)

Two or more municipalities adopt an intermunicipal plan (IDP) to address issues of mutual concern with respect to designated lands. The plan must address the future use of land, the manner of and proposals for future development, or other matters relating to the area, etc. The plan must include a procedure to resolve, or attempt to resolve, conflicts; a procedure to amend or repeal the plan; and provisions relating to plan administration.

If the municipalities cannot agree on the need for an IDP or the issues in the IDP, the Land and Property Rights Tribunal can hear the matter. The Minister may then require two (2) or more municipalities to enter into an intermunicipal development plan.

Municipal Development Plan

(*MGA* Sections 632, 636, 637 and 638)

Every council of a municipality must adopt a municipal development plan (MDP). The MDP provides a general framework for development within the municipality and is the official statement of your municipality's policies concerning the desired future pattern of development. The municipality must afford opportunity to affected persons, school boards, adjacent First Nations or Metis Settlements, as well as adjacent municipalities, to review and make comment on the plan. A municipal development plan must be consistent with an intermunicipal development plan.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework

Part 17.2 (*MGA* Sections 708.26 – 708.53)

Each municipality that shares a common boundary with another municipality must have an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF). Municipal districts that share a common boundary now have the option to opt out of the ICF requirement via joint agreement. This framework must provide for the integrated and strategic planning, delivery, and funding of intermunicipal services, steward scarce resources efficiently in providing local services, and ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents.

The framework must describe the mandatory services categories (water and wastewater, transportation, solid waste, emergency services and recreation) or, by agreement, any other services to be provided under it that benefit residents in both municipalities; identify which municipality is responsible for providing which services and outline how the services will be delivered and funded; and contain provisions establishing a process for resolving disputes that occur while the framework is in effect.

If the municipalities involved in an ICF cannot reach an agreement on the framework, disagree on its application, interpretation, or are unable to resolve their dispute related to the framework within one year after starting their ICF dispute resolution process, the *MGA* includes a mandatory and binding arbitration process to resolve any such issues.

Area Structure and Redevelopment Plans

(*MGA* Sections 633, 634, 635, 636, 637 and 638)

Council may, by bylaw, adopt an area structure plan (ASP) to provide a framework for subsequent subdivision and development for a particular area. The area structure plan will generally describe the sequences of development, proposed land use, population density, and the location of major transportation routes and public utilities and may address matters related to reserve land dedication or money in lieu of land dedication.

When an area is undergoing redevelopment, council may adopt an area redevelopment plan (ARP) and must describe the objectives of the plan and how they are proposed to be achieved, the proposed land uses, etc. In addition, a redevelopment levy may be used to acquire land for park, school, or recreation purposes in the redevelopment area.

An ASP or ARP must be consistent with the municipality's MDP and existing IDPs.

Land-use Bylaws

(*MGA* Sections 638.2, 640, 642, 685, and 686)

All municipalities must have a land-use bylaw (LUB). This bylaw is the central planning document that provides a specific means of implementing statutory plans and policies. For instance, if a council wishes to adopt a direct control district in the land-use bylaw, council must also adopt an MDP that establishes that direction. All statutory documents must be consistent with each other. The LUB provides for a system for issuing development permits and divides the municipality into land use districts or 'zones' prescribing permitted and discretionary uses for land, and development standards for each land use district. Council must establish a development authority to administer the development approval process and make decisions.

When an application conforms to the provisions of the LUB and is for a permitted use, a development permit must be issued with or without conditions as provided for in the bylaw. Where an application is for a discretionally use, it may be approved with or without conditions as provided for in the bylaw, or it may be refused. Development permit applications may be appealed to the subdivision and development appeal board (SDAB) or in certain situations to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal of Alberta. Additionally, people who believe they may be affected by the proposed development may appeal the decision of the development authority.

Subdivision

(*MGA* Sections 623, 638.2, 652, 654, 655, and 678)

Dividing a piece of land into two or more parcels or consolidating two or more lots generally requires approval from a subdivision authority. The authority ensures that the land to be subdivided is appropriate for its proposed use. Council must establish the subdivision authority by bylaw. Decisions may be appealed to the subdivision and

development appeal board, or in certain situations to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal of Alberta. While a subdivision is approved by the subdivision authority, any changes to zoning that accompany the subdivision must be brought to council for approval by bylaw prior to approval of the subdivision application.

Subdivision or Development Agreements

(MGA Sections 638.2, 650 and 655)

As a condition of subdivision or development approval, your municipality may require a developer to enter into agreements to address matters related to roads; pedestrian walkways; public utilities; off-street or parking facilities or loading and unloading facilities; to pay off-site levies or redevelopment levies imposed by bylaw; etc. These agreements ensure that certain conditions of the proposed development are documented and completed. Municipalities may obtain legal advice to address the subdivision or development agreement.

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

(MGA Sections 627, 678, and 686)

A municipal council is required to establish a SDAB to act as a quasi-judicial body to deal with subdivision and development appeals. No more than one member of council can serve on a panel hearing a matter under the SDAB unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs authorizes it. The SDAB appeal hearing must be a public hearing.

Economic Development

The Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) is an incorporated, non-profit organization formed to enhance the economic development profession in the province of Alberta, providing an active network of communication, information and education. EDA coordinates programs and workshops for municipal councils and economic development committee members to help communities with their economic plans by creating an awareness of what they can do on the local front to enhance their economic development activities. You can visit their website at edaalberta.ca.

Conclusion

This document is a starting point, not the final word. You will benefit from your time on council as you meet new people and develop a greater understanding of the local government process and its role in your community. Your community will benefit from your leadership, vision, and service. Best wishes for your success, and for the success of your community.

This guide is an information summary only and has no legislative sanction. For certainty, refer to the *MGA* and request your own legal advice. Copies of the *MGA* or other legislation mentioned in this document can be downloaded or purchased from Alberta King's Printer Bookstore:

7th floor Park Plaza Building
10611 - 98 Avenue Northwest
Edmonton AB T5K 2P7

Phone: 780-427-4952 (or toll-free in Alberta at 310-0000)
Fax: 780-452-0668
Email: <mailto:kings-printer@gov.ab.ca>
Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer>



Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest for Councillors

Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest for Councillors | Municipal Affairs

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Disclaimer

The Government of Alberta and Municipal Affairs will not be liable for any damages that result from the use of this guide. While Municipal Affairs attempts to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guide, a municipality and/or councillor may wish to obtain advice from a lawyer in order to ensure the legislative requirements with regards to pecuniary interest and conflict of interest provisions are met. Municipal Affairs and the Government of Alberta do not warrant or make any other representations regarding the use, accuracy, applicability, or reliability of this guide.

It is important to recognize that this guide has been developed as an explanatory document to the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. This guide is not legal advice, and it cannot be used in place of consulting with a lawyer. This guide cannot anticipate every aspect, circumstance, or situation that a municipality or councillor may encounter. If a municipality or councillor needs help finding a lawyer, please visit the Law Society of Alberta website at www.lawsociety.ab.ca/.

Copies of the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Local Authorities Election Act* can be purchased from Alberta King's Printer Bookstore or accessed on the King's Printer website:

Suite 700, 10611 – 98 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 2P7

Phone: 780-427-4952

Fax: 780-452-0668

Email: kings-printer@gov.ab.ca

Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer>

Note: This document has been updated to reflect the addition of conflict of interest provisions in the MGA. There are significant differences between the declaration processes for pecuniary interest and conflict of interest. As such, the matters will be dealt with separately.

This document is only a guide to the legislation. It is recommended you consult your solicitor for advice on specific situations.

1. Pecuniary Interest

Alberta's municipal councillors have a strong record of public service to their communities. As an elected official, you are responsible for upholding the public interest ahead of any private interests you may have.

The *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* describes pecuniary interest and sets out the procedures you must follow if a matter in which you have a pecuniary interest comes up at a council meeting or a committee of council meeting.

In order that the public interest is served and seen to be served, it is important that you are open and honest about dealings with the municipality.

Definition

Section 170 of the *MGA* describes pecuniary interest as something which could monetarily affect you, your spouse or adult interdependent partner, your children, your parents or the parents of your spouse (in other words, your immediate family), or a business which employs you or in which you have an interest.

Pecuniary interest means an interest in a matter which could monetarily affect:

- a person directly;
- a corporation, other than a distributing corporation, in which you are a shareholder, director or officer;
- a distributing corporation in which you; beneficially own voting shares carrying at least 10% of the voting rights attached to the voting shares of the corporation or of which you are a director or officer; and/or
- a partnership or firm of which you are a member.

This section also states that *"a councillor has a pecuniary interest in a matter if (a) the matter could monetarily affect the councillor or an employer of the councillor, or (b) the councillor knows or should know that the matter could monetarily affect the councillor's family."* You must decide when you have a pecuniary interest. Council or the chief administrative officer cannot make the decision for you.

Exceptions

Several exceptions are listed in section 170(3) of the *MGA*.

A councillor does not have a pecuniary interest only because of any interest:

- the councillor, an employer of the councillor, or a member of the councillor's family may have as an elector, taxpayer, or utility customer of the municipality;
- the councillor or a member of the councillor's family may have by reason of being appointed by the council as a director of a company incorporated for the purpose of carrying on business for and on behalf of the municipality or by reason of being appointed as the representative of the council on another body;
- the councillor or member of the councillor's family may have with respect to any allowance, honorarium, remuneration or benefit to which the councillor or member of the councillor's family may be entitled by being appointed by the council to a position described above;

- the councillor may have with respect to any allowance, honorarium, remuneration or benefit to which the councillor may be entitled by being a councillor;
- the councillor or a member of the councillor's family may have by being employed by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta or a federal or provincial Crown corporation or agency, except with respect to a matter directly affecting the department, corporation or agency of which the councillor or family member is an employee;
- a member of the councillor's family may have by having an employer, other than the municipality, that is monetarily affected by a decision of the municipality;
- the councillor or a member of the councillor's family may have by being a member or director of a non-profit organization as defined in section 241(f) or a service club;
- the councillor or member of the councillor's family may have:
 - by being appointed as the volunteer chief or other volunteer officer of a fire or ambulance service or emergency measures organization or other volunteer organization or service; or
 - by reason of remuneration received as a volunteer member of any of those voluntary organizations or services.
- the councillor, an employer of the councillor or a member of the councillor's family that is held in common with the majority of electors of the municipality or, if the matter affects only part of the municipality, with the majority of electors in that part;
- the interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the councillor; or
- they discuss or vote on a bylaw that applies to businesses or business activities when the councillor, an employer of the councillor or a member of the councillor's family has an interest in a business, unless the only business affected by the bylaw is the business of the councillor, employer of the councillor or the councillor's family.

What to Do

Section 172 of the *MGA* sets out the procedure you must follow if a matter in which you have a pecuniary interest arises in a council or committee of council meeting. Failure to follow these procedures could lead to your disqualification from council.

This section says that you may not take part in the discussion and decision-making on any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. The legislation attempts to ensure that you are not influencing council's discussion or decision by your presence.

If you have a pecuniary interest:

- you are to disclose that you have an interest and its general nature;
- you are to abstain from any discussion of the matter and from voting; and
- you are to leave the room until the matter has been dealt with, and you should make sure that your abstention is recorded in the minutes.

For example, you might say *“Mr. Mayor, I am abstaining on this matter because I am a shareholder in the company. I am leaving the room and I ask that my abstention be recorded.”*

If the matter is one in which you, as an elector or property owner, have a right to be heard by council (for example, a land use bylaw amendment, lane or street closure, etc.), you are to disclose your interest and abstain, but you may remain in the room to be heard by council in the same manner as any person who is not a member of council. In this case, you should follow the procedure required of any other person to be placed on the list of delegations to be heard by council. When the matter comes up for hearing, you might say *“Madam Mayor, I am abstaining from this matter because I own the property affected. I ask that my abstention be recorded.”*

You should then leave the council table and go to the area where the public sits. The mayor should call you to make your presentation in the same manner as any other person. You should state your case, answer any questions that may be asked of you and then be seated in the public area for the remainder of the public hearing.

When council debates the matter, it would be advisable to leave the room during the decision-making process.

Temporary Absence

On occasion, you may be temporarily absent from a meeting when a matter in which you have a pecuniary interest comes up for discussion. If so, upon returning to the meeting, or as soon as you discover that the matter was discussed, you are to disclose the general nature of your interest in accordance with section 172(4). The MGA requires the secretary to note your disclosure in the minutes. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that a member of council does not avoid disclosing an interest by simply leaving the meeting before the matter is discussed and returning after the discussion is complete. If a matter is discussed by council while you are temporarily absent from a meeting, upon your return and as soon as you become aware of the matter, you should get the attention of the chair and say something like *“Mr. Mayor, during my absence a matter was discussed in which I have an interest. I am disclosing that my husband is an employee of the company and I ask that my disclosure be recorded in the minutes.”*

All Meetings

The disclosure and abstention rules apply to every meeting of council and any of its committees. They also apply to you at a meeting of any board, committee, or agency to which you are appointed as a representative of council (section 172(1) of the MGA). In other words, any time you are acting as a councillor, the disclosure and abstention rules apply to you.

It is important to remember to ask the secretary at any of these meetings to record your abstention and to check that it is included in the minutes.

Business with the Municipality

Although there is no prohibition on doing business with the municipality when you are a member of council, every contract or agreement with the municipality in which you have an interest must be approved by council (section 173 of the MGA). If your council has delegated purchasing authority to administration, it is important that those officials know of any business interests that you have and that you ensure council approves of any contract with your business. If, as an elected official, you submit a bid or offer for a contract or agreement, you should note in your submission that the matter must receive council approval under section 173 of the MGA. If council does not approve the contract or agreement, you will be disqualified from council under section 174 of the MGA and the contract or agreement will have no force or effect.

The following are the only exceptions:

- if the contract or agreement is for the performance of work or the provision of a service in the case of an emergency; or
- if the contract or agreement is for the sale of goods or services to the municipality or to persons contracting with the municipality at competitive prices by a dealer in those goods or services, that is incidental to, or in the ordinary course of business; or
- the agreement was entered into before your term of councillor started.

Statement of Disclosure of Interests

If you have extensive business interests, it may be difficult for you to know when these businesses are dealing with your municipality. It may be even more difficult for purchasing agents to identify a contract that requires the approval of council because a member of council has an interest.

In such cases, it may help everyone involved – yourself included – if a listing of interests is available in the office. Council may, by bylaw, require its members to file a statement with a designated officer showing the names of their immediate family members and any business in which they have an interest (section 171 of the *MGA*). The designated officer then compiles a list of all the names reported on the statements and provides it to the employees of the municipality indicated in the bylaw.

This provision is enabling. This means the council has the power to pass such a bylaw; however, is not required to do so.

Remember

If you vote on a matter in which you have pecuniary interest, you are subject to disqualification, even if you vote against your interest.

Ask to have your abstention recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The rules apply at all meetings of your council and its committees, and at the meetings of any board, commission, committee or agency to which you are appointed as a representative of the council.

If your council passes a bylaw requiring a statement of disclosure of interests, keep your statement up-to-date by regularly informing the designated officer of additions or deletions.

If you are in doubt as to whether you have a pecuniary interest, obtain a written legal opinion from your own solicitor.

2. Conflict of Interest

Prior to the introduction of Bill 20, the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, councillors were only required or permitted to abstain from discussion and voting on matters before council when they had a pecuniary interest or due to an absence from a public hearing. Councillors can now abstain from a vote or discussions on a matter if they believe they may have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest.

Conflict of interest means a matter that could affect a private interest of the councillor or an employer of the councillor. It is also considered a conflict of interest if the councillor knows or should know that the matter affects the private interests of their family.

Similar to the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, which defines the ethics rules for members of the legislative assembly, the *MGA* defines what a private interest is not rather than providing a definitive list of potential private interests.

A private interest is not something that:

- is of general application;
- affects a councillor as one of a broad class of the public;
- concerns the remuneration and benefits of a councillor; or
- an interest that is trivial.

It is not possible to define every situation that presents a conflict of interest. However, these provisions enable councillors to abstain from voting or discussing a matter in which there may be a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest. This is important to build trust in locally elected officials and the decisions that they make as members of council.

What to Do for a Conflict of Interest

Section 172.1(1) and (2) of the *MGA* set out the procedure you may follow when you believe you may have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest in a matter before council, a council committee, or any other body to which you are appointed as a representative of council.

If you believe you may have a conflict of interest:

- you may disclose the general nature of the conflict of interest;
- once you have disclosed the conflict of interest, you may abstain from any discussion of the matter and from voting; and
- you may leave the room until the matter has been dealt with, and you should make sure that your abstention and the disclosure of the conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest is recorded in the minutes.

No Review of Conflict of Interest

If a councillor decides to take or not take any of the actions under section 172.1(2) after disclosing a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, that decision cannot be considered during any hearing respecting the potential disqualification of the councillor. Nor can that decision be considered when determining the validity of a complaint alleging a breach of the code of conduct bylaw (Section 172.2 of the *MGA*).

This document is only a guide to the legislation. It is recommended you consult your solicitor for advice on specific situations.

Campaign Disclosure Statement and Financial Statement

*Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 147.3, 147.4)*

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Business Title/Organization		Business Phone Number	
Address	City or Town	Province	Postal Code

LOCAL JURISDICTION: _____, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Calendar year of disclosure: _____

Full Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate's Mailing Address: _____

_____, Alberta

Postal Code: _____

This form, including any contributor information from line 2, is a public document.

Campaign Revenue for Calendar Year

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS:

1. Total amount of contributions of \$50.00 or less _____
2. Total amount of all contributions of \$50.01 and greater, together with the contributor's name and address (attach listing and amount) _____

NOTE: For lines 1 and 2, include all money and valued personal property, real property or service contributions.

3. Deduct total amount of contributions returned _____
4. NET CONTRIBUTIONS (line 1 + 2 - 3) **\$0.00**

OTHER SOURCES:

5. Total amount contributed out of candidate's own funds _____
6. Total net amount received from fund-raising functions _____
7. Transfer of any surplus or deficit from a candidate's previous election campaign _____
8. Total amount of other revenue _____
9. TOTAL OTHER SOURCES (add lines 5, 6, 7 and 8) **\$0.00**

TOTAL REVENUE

10. Total campaign revenue for calendar year (add lines 4 and 9) **\$0.00**

Campaign Expenditures for Calendar Year

11. Total paid campaign expenses _____
12. Total unpaid campaign expenses _____
13. Total campaign expenses (add lines 11 and 12) **\$0.00**

The candidate must attach an itemized expense report to this form.

- Campaign Surplus (Deficit) for Calendar Year (deduct line 13 from line 10) **\$0.00**

A candidate who has incurred campaign expenses or received contributions of \$50 000 or more must attach a review engagement statement to this form.

ATTESTATION OF CANDIDATE

I certify that to the best of my knowledge this document and all attachments accurately reflect the information required under section 147.4 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Date yyyy-mm-dd

Signature of Candidate

Forward the signed original of this document to the address of the local jurisdiction in which the candidate was nominated for election.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO FILE A FALSE STATEMENT