

Request for Decision



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Corporate Services**
Date: May 6, 2019
Subject: Bylaw 2042-A1 – Elections Amendment
Recommendation: **THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed bylaw amendment to the Regular Meeting on May 21, 2019, as presented.**

Background

Following the 2018 General Municipal Election, Corporate Services had discussions about replacing the locally maintained voter registry ("poll book") with the Provincially-maintained voters list.

The benefit of doing so is that the Provincial list is continually updated, and a current copy may be requested in the weeks prior to a local election. The Provincial list is updated when residents move or pass away.

The local book has names added as new registrations are collected, but names are rarely, if ever, removed, and the total number of registered voters could include names that should have been removed years before.

The proposed amendment changes the requirement from maintaining a local poll book to utilizing the Provincial list.

The second change is to reduce the number of advance polls from two to one. During the 2018 election, only the City of Grand Forks operated two advance polls; the Regional District and School District had just one, which caused some confusion among early voters. The first advance poll saw an average of just over 25 voters per hour over the mandated 12 hour period (330 total ballots), with 15 election staff filling the required positions.

Provincial legislation allows for municipalities with less than 5,000 population to provide one advanced polling opportunity instead of two (section 107(2)).

Benefits or Impacts

General

Off-loads maintenance of local poll books by utilizing resources from Elections BC.

Strategic Impact



Fiscal Responsibility

- Reduce election costs by eliminating second advance poll.

Policy/Legislation

Local Government Act, Section 107(2).

Attachments

Bylaw 2042-A1 – General Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw

Recommendation

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Options

1. THAT Committee of the Whole refer the proposed bylaw amendment to the Regular Meeting as presented.
2. THAT Committee of the Whole refer the proposed bylaw amendment to the Regular Meeting with changes.
3. THAT Committee of the Whole refers the matter back to staff for further information.