

# Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting  
From: **Corporate Services**  
Date: May 21, 2019  
Subject: Bylaw 2042-A1 – Elections Amendment  
Recommendation: **THAT Council gives the first three readings to the proposed General Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 2042-A1.**

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## 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)).

## Update:

The Amendment Bylaw was presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 6, 2019 for discussion and feedback.

The Amendment Bylaw is now presented for first three readings.

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## 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

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## **Recommendation**

**THAT Council gives the first three readings to the proposed General Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 2042-A1.**

## **Options**

1. THAT Council accepts the report.
2. THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2019-05-21 RFD - Bylaw 2042-A1 Elections Amendment.docx
Attachments:	- DRAFT-By2042-A1-GeneralLocalGovernmentElectionAmendment.docx
Final Approval Date:	May 13, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Diane Heinrich - May 13, 2019 - 11:30 AM**