



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: April 19, 2022

From: Shelley Schnitzler, Legislative Services
Manager/Corporate Officer

Bylaw No: 248.01

Subject: **Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 248.01**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council adopt City of West Kelowna Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 0248.01, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Election will be held October 15, 2022. Staff has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Election Bylaw to ensure it aligns with the *Local Government Act*, Elections BC requirements, and other relevant regulations and processes.

With recent changes to the Province of BC's legislation for mail ballot voting opportunities, the bylaw amendment will provide mail ballot voting opportunities to anyone who wishes to vote by mail.

The specific changes to the Local Government Election Bylaw are as follows:

Section 8 – Advance Voting Opportunities

A new section has been added which allows for additional advance voting opportunities. Under the *Local Government Act*, the City is required to hold two advance voting opportunities – the first one 10 days prior to general election day and a second established by bylaw (which is the 4th day before general voting day unless it falls on a statutory holiday in which case it would be held on the third day before general voting day).

The proposed change to this section of the Bylaw allows for the Chief Election Officer to establish additional voting dates, places and hours.

Section 10 – Mail Ballot Voting

This section removes the requirement that a voter wishing to vote by mail, must have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote or that the voter expects to be absent from the City during voting opportunities. The option to vote by mail is now

available to any person wishing to receive a mail ballot package and to submit their ballot by mail.

Applications to vote by mail will be available 30 days prior to October 5th. Once the ballots are ready (printed and tested), and up to 4:00 pm, Thursday, October 13th, the mail ballot package will be made available to the applicant. The method of providing the mail ballot package will be determined on timelines and Voter preference (mail, courier, pick-up). Completed ballot packages must be returned to City Hall or a designated voting location by 8:00 pm, Saturday, October 15th. Any ballots received after this time will not be included in the final results.

COUNCIL REPORT / RESOLUTION HISTORY

Date	Report Topic / Resolution	Resolution No.
April 5, 2022	THAT Council give first, second and third readings to City of West Kelowna Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 0248.01, 2022.	C099/22

Alternate Motion:

That Council postpone consideration of adoption of City of West Kelowna Local Government Election Amendment Bylaw No. 0248.01, 2022.

Should Council postpone adoption, staff would request additional direction.

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No

Attachments: Bylaw No. 0248.01