



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Local Authorities Election Act and Municipal Government Act Review and Consultation

**Meeting Date:** June 21, 2022

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### **Executive Summary:**

Attached is a letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, Rick McIver, seeking feedback from City Council in relation to the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) and the *Municipal Government Act* review and consultation both related to efforts to improve the local election process and enhance the public's trust in local councils. Municipal Affairs requests Councils' feedback in its engagement process to ensure any legislative changes meet the needs of election officials, municipal administrators and the general public.

Municipal Council feedback on the code of conduct is requested by June 14, 2022 through [your.alberta.ca/mga-code-conduct](https://your.alberta.ca/mga-code-conduct). Additional feedback will then be gathered through public survey, posted online by summer 2022.

Public feedback on amendments to improve the local election process and enhance the public's trust in their local councils once elected (specifically related to enhancing Councillor accountability, protecting voters, strengthening democracy) will be available through online survey published on [www.alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca) in summer 2022.

### **Background:**

***Municipal Affairs, Code of Conduct Discussion Guide*** (attached) provides further details about the specific questions, related to the Code of Conduct that feedback is requested on:

1. Has your municipality experienced challenges related to enforcing its Code of Conduct? If so, what were those challenges?
2. Do you think the current legislation on Code of Conduct is sufficient and meets the requirements of municipalities to provide fair and accountable governance? If no, please provide your suggestions.



***Municipal Affairs, Local Elections and Councillor Accountability, Local Authorities Election Act and Municipal Government Act Engagement*** (attached) provides further details about the specific questions that feedback will be requested on:

**Enhanced Councillor Accountability:**

1. Are the eligibility criteria for an individual to be nominated as a municipal candidate adequate? If not, please provide your suggestions for improvement.
2. Are the criteria and process for disqualifying a councillor appropriate? If not, please provide your suggestions for improvement.

**Protecting Voters:**

1. Should candidates, their scrutineers, or their official agent continue to have the opportunity to object to an individual who has shown up to vote?
2. Should candidates be able to request access to the list of electors?

**Strengthening Democracy:**

1. Should elections conducted with electronic voting equipment be eligible for judicial recount, where the judge can order the votes be recounted by hand or run through the electronic tabulator again?
2. Should third parties advertising for or against an issue that is the subject of a vote (e.g., municipal referendum question) be required to register?
3. Should third parties advertising any issues that have been raised by candidates in a municipal election be required to register?

**Alternatives:**

Council may wish to:

1. Discuss changes and direct Administration to complete the online survey for feedback on the code of conduct.
2. Not submit any input to Municipal Affairs in regards to the code of conduct review and consultation.

**Recommended Action:**

Type the recommendation here

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer