

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: April 25, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tracey Arthur, Director, Corporate Administration

SUBJECT: 2022 Local Government Election Appointments and Election Bylaws

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council:

1. Appoint Tanalee Hesse as the Chief Election Officer for conducting the 2022 Local Government Election with the power to appoint other election staff as required for the administration and conduct of the 2022 Local Government Election including, as required, the 2022 Election for one (1) School Trustee;
 2. Endorse the appointed Chief Election Officer report to the City's Director of Corporate Administration;
 3. Appoint Tracey Arthur and Debbie Johnstone as Deputy Chief Election Officers for the 2022 Local Government Election including, as required, the 2022 Election for one (1) School Trustee;
 4. Endorse that the voting places for General Voting Day (October 15, 2022) be selected by the Chief Election Officer with the intent being as follows:
 - Centennial Arena – 14600 North Bluff Road;
 - Kent Street Activity Centre – 1475 Kent Street; and
 - White Rock Community Centre – 15154 Russell Avenue.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The general voting day for the 2022 Local Government Election is Saturday, October 15, 2022. The Local Government Elections are administered pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Chief and Deputy Chief Election Officers

For the purposes of conducting an election, the City must appoint both a Chief Election Officer and a Deputy Election Officer. These appointments must be by resolution at an open meeting of Council.

Through legislation the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer are empowered to:

- Appoint other election officials;
- Delegate their authorities as need; and
- Otherwise ensure the election is conducted in accordance with the legislation.

The recommendations presented in this corporate report appoint Tanalee Hesse as the Chief Election Officer and City staff Tracey Arthur and Debbie Johnstone as the Deputy Chief Election Officers respectively to undertake the City's election process.

Ms. Hesse has extensive experience in local government (30+ years) including at least 12 elections / by-elections.

Voting Places

The recommended voting places for the 2022 general election are proposed to be the same as they were for the 2018 election:

- Centennial Arena – 14600 North Bluff Road;
- Kent Street Activity Centre – 1475 Kent Street; and
- White Rock Community Centre – 15154 Russell Avenue.

All voting places are wheelchair accessible and will have curbside voting available upon request and provide ample public parking. Curbside voting applies to electors who attend a voting place but are unable to enter the voting place due to a physical disability or impaired mobility.

Election Bylaw and Procedures for 2022

The following is an outline of the proposed bylaw to accommodate the 2022 election. All are contained in "*White Rock Election Procedure Bylaw, 2022, No. 2426*" (Appendix A).

Advance Voting Opportunity Dates:

There will be three (3) advance voting opportunities, all will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the White Rock Community Centre. In accordance with the *Local Government Act* at least two (2) advanced voting opportunities must be held, in the past it has served the community well to offer a further advance voting opportunity.

There is one (1) legislated advance voting opportunity where the province requires it be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. Additional advance voting days in White Rock will be held Thursday, October 6, 2022 and Tuesday, October 11, 2022. Anyone who is eligible to vote is entitled to vote during any of the advance voting opportunities.

Special Voting Opportunity

The bylaw also outlines a special voting opportunity to be provided on the 3rd day before general voting day (Wednesday, October 12, 2022). This opportunity is anticipated to be held on the Evergreen Baptist Campus of Care site. This will be open to the residents at Evergreen as well as staff who are eligible to vote in the City of White Rock.

Nominations

The City of White Rock requires the number of nominators required to be ten (10) and a deposit of \$100 as a requirement to complete a nomination package in an effort to ensure those nominated were serious about their intentions.

Campaign Disclosure Statements

Campaign Disclosure Statements from 2014 onward are no longer be posted on the City's website. Instead a link will be uploaded for access to information from the Elections BC Elections (EBC) website for anyone looking to retrieve this information. These documents are no longer submitted to the Local Government, any questions regarding the information or procedures must be addressed directly by the EBC.

Other items noted in the Bylaw include:

- Provincial Voters List: the most current available provincial list of voters prepared under the *Election Act* of British Columbia will be the register of resident electors.
- Resolution of Tie Votes after a Judicial Recount: following judicial recount and the results of the election cannot be declared because there is an equality of valid votes for two (2) or more candidates, the results will be determined by lot (thus saving resource of funds and time).
- Order of Names on the Ballot: to be determined by lot.

The three (3) above noted items are proposed to remain unchanged in this new election procedure bylaw from previous years.

Automated Vote Counting Unit (Vote Tabulation Machines)

The City of White Rock utilized vote tabulator machines since 2011 and they have proven their speed and accuracy to the counting process of the election. They also help in the circumstance where a voter were to spoil their ballot, where a ballot is marked with an invalid number of votes or is not clear it will notify the voter immediately, so they have the opportunity to have their vote count (complete a new ballot). Previously if this were to occur at the time of the count (after the close of voting) that ballot would have to be set aside and would not be included.

YEAR	SPOILED BALLOTS REPLACED	SPOILED BALLOTS NOT COUNTED	WERE AUTOMATED VOTE TABULATORS USED?
2018	102	6	Yes
2014	100	10	Yes
2012 (by-election)	13	1 (mail in ballot)	Yes
2011	62	6 (mail in ballots)	Yes
2009 (by-election)	4	5	No
2008	13	45	No
2005	17	50	No
2002	14	47	No

The City will be again utilizing Dominion Voting and will be leasing vote tabulation machines through them for 2022 (as done in 2018).

There are some minor amendments required for the “*Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure Bylaw 2018, No. 2248*” (Appendix B) to address Mail Ballots. This bylaw authorizes the White Rock to use these devices to conduct their election vote tabulation. A Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding vote tabulators was conducted in 2017 and in 2018 the RFP was awarded to Dominion Voting Systems. Reference checks brought forward favorable information in regard to the devices and the feedback received from other municipalities who utilized the company in the past was extremely positive. The 2018 contract included their guaranteed pricing to carry forward to the 2022 election and this was a great advantage as the other company offering this service have had a problem getting machines ready for 2022. Many municipalities that have not utilized Dominion Voting Systems prior have turned to them for this election.

Mail Ballot Option

The *Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw 2022 No. 2253* (Appendix C) gives permission and sets out the procedures the City will utilize for a Mail Ballot program. The City has offered a Mail Ballot option since 2008. The City of White Rock utilized this opportunity the

first year it was offered as an option by the province. Since that time there has not been many overall process amendments. This new bylaw has utilized the template provided by the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and gives an amended time for when these ballots may be processed / placed in the vote tabulation machine ready to generate after the close of voting on General Voting Day. All Mail Ballots received by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to General Voting Day will now be able to be placed in the vote tabulation machines processed. This is an important change given each year the Mail Ballots have been utilized more and in 2018 it was found that having to wait to open the last certification envelope and then place each ballot in the machine after the close of voting on General Voting Day did slow down the results being able to be issued. It is anticipated that use of this type of voting will only increase given the recent pandemic.

Candidates will be notified ahead of time when the ballots will be placed in the vote tabulation machine and there will be an opportunity for a scrutineer to view the process.

YEAR	Mail In Ballot
2018	140
2014	98
2012 (by-election)	27
2011	98
2009 (by-election)	18
2008	26

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The expenditure related to the 2022 Local Government Election has already been included in the Five-Year Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations within this corporate report appoint the Chief Election Officer who will report to the City's Director of Corporate Administration, and the Deputy Chief Election Officers. It also introduces corresponding election bylaws as they will apply to the 2022 Local Government Election. All bylaws concerning the general election must be given final approval by July 4, 2022.

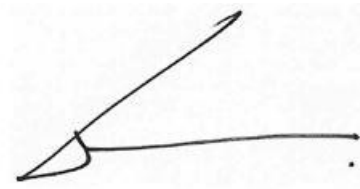
Respectfully submitted,



Tracey Arthur,
Director, Corporate Administration

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot at the end.

Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: White Rock Election Procedure Bylaw, 2022, No. 2426

Appendix B: Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure Bylaw,
2018, Bylaw 2248, Amendment No. 1, 2022, No. 2430

Appendix C: Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw, 2022, No. 2427