



# **CITY OF EDMONTON**

## **BYLAW 19457**

### **ELECTIONS BYLAW**

**(CONSOLIDATED ON JANUARY 7, 2021)**

**THE CITY OF EDMONTON  
BYLAW 19457  
ELECTION BYLAW**

Edmonton City Council enacts:

**PART I - GENERAL**

- |                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>PURPOSE</b>                  | 1 | The purpose of this bylaw is to delegate authority and establish procedures for City elections.   |
| <b>DEFINITIONS</b>              | 2 | <p>(1) Unless otherwise specified, words used in this bylaw have the same meaning as defined in the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>, RSA 2000, c M-26 or the <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i>, RSA 2000, c L-21.</p> <p>(2) In this bylaw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) “<b>City</b>” means the City of Edmonton;</li><li>(b) “<b>City Manager</b>” means the City’s chief administrative officer or delegate; and</li><li>(c) “<b>tabulator</b>” means a vote recorder that reads completed ballots and counts the number of votes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) for each candidate in an election;</li><li>(ii) for and against the bylaw in a vote on a bylaw; and</li><li>(iii) in the affirmative and in the negative in a vote on a question.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| <b>RULES FOR INTERPRETATION</b> | 3 | The marginal notes and headings in this bylaw are for ease of reference only.   |

**PART II - PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES**

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| <b>RETURNING</b> | 4 | (1) The City Manager must appoint an individual to serve as |
|------------------|---|---|

**OFFICER**

returning officer for all elections.

- (2) The City Manager must appoint an individual, other than the individual appointed pursuant to subsection (1), to serve as substitute returning officer for all elections.

**NOMINATION DEPOSITS**

5

Candidate nominations must be accompanied by a deposit in Canadian funds:

- (a) if the candidate is nominated for the office of chief elected official, \$500; or
- (b) if the candidate is nominated for the office of councillor, \$100.  
(S.2, Bylaw 19567, January 7, 2021)

**NOMINATION SIGNATURES**

6

Candidate nominations must be signed by at least:

- (a) if the candidate is nominated for the office of chief elected official, 100 electors; or
- (b) if the candidate is nominated for the office of councillor, 25 electors.

**PLACE OF NOMINATION**

7

The returning officer must designate one or more locations within the City to serve as the local jurisdiction office for the purpose of receiving nominations.

**DEATH OF A CANDIDATE**

8

- (1) If a candidate dies prior to the opening of voting stations on election day or any advance vote, the returning officer must post notice of the death in a conspicuous location in all relevant voting stations.
- (2) If a candidate dies following the opening of voting stations on election day or any advance vote
  - (a) the election for the office for which the deceased candidate was nominated must be discontinued, and
  - (b) a new election for that office must be held as soon as practicable.

**PART III - ELECTION PROCEDURES**

<b>VOTING HOURS</b>	9	On election day, all voting stations will be open continuously between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
<b>FORM OF BALLOT</b>	10	The returning officer must establish the form of ballot for each election, and may use a single ballot card for all offices for which an election is being held.
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	11	<p>(1) Electors may vote by special ballot in any City election.</p> <p>(2) An application for a special ballot may be made to the returning officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) in writing;</li> <li>(b) by telephone;</li> <li>(c) by fax;</li> <li>(d) in person;</li> <li>(e) by e-mail; or</li> <li>(f) by secure website designated by the returning officer.</li> </ul> <p>(3) For a general election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) applications for special ballots must be submitted between August 1 of the year in which the general election is held and 4:30 p.m. on election day; and</li> <li>(b) completed special ballots must be received by the returning officer no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day.</li> </ul> <p>(4) For any other election or a vote on a bylaw or question, the application periods and receipt deadline for special ballots must be stated in the resolution fixing the date of the election.</p>
<b>BLIND ELECTOR TEMPLATE</b>	12	The returning officer must provide an electronic ballot marking device for blind electors during all advance votes, and must notify electors that the device will be available when giving notice of the election.
<b>USE OF TABULATORS</b>	13	The returning officer may provide for the taking of votes of electors by means of voting machines, vote recorders, or automated voting systems, and if so provided will follow the voting procedures set out in this bylaw.

**TABULATOR  
VOTING  
PROCEDURES**

- 14 Electors will mark their ballot by completely filling the designated space next to the name of the candidate they wish to vote for.
- 15 After marking their ballot, electors will place the completed ballot within the provided secrecy sleeve and feed it into the tabulator to be counted.
- 16 (1) If the tabulator rejects a marked ballot, the elector will be offered the opportunity to complete a replacement ballot.
- (2) If the elector completes a replacement ballot, the original ballot will be deemed spoiled.
- (3) If the elector declines a replacement ballot, the original ballot will be deemed rejected.
- 17 If a tabulator fails at any time while a voting station is open, electors will insert their ballots directly into an auxiliary ballot box.

**COUNTING OF  
BALLOTS**

- 18 (1) This section applies to all ballots not counted by a tabulator at the time of voting, including special ballots and ballots deposited in an auxiliary ballot box.
- (2) Following the close of a voting station, ballots deposited in an auxiliary ballot box may be counted by inserting them into a functioning tabulator or by manual count.
- (3) At any time after 7:30 p.m. on election day, any other ballots not counted by a tabulator at the time of voting may be counted by inserting them into a functioning tabulator or by manual count.

**RECOUNT**

- 19 If the returning officer conducts a recount for any election, the returning officer may use tabulators to complete the count.

**PART IV - ELECTION AUTHORITIES**

**RETURNING  
OFFICER  
AUTHORITIES**

- 20 The returning officer may:
- (a) divide the City into voting subdivisions;
- (b) designate more than one voting station for each voting subdivision;

- (c) determine the location of all voting stations;
- (d) post printed voting instructions at voting stations in languages other than English as the returning officer deems appropriate;
- (e) designate the location of one or more institutional voting stations in addition to all other voting stations; and
- (f) delegate any of their powers, duties, or functions to any person.

**CITY MANAGER AUTHORITIES**            21            The City Manager may delegate any of their powers, duties, or functions to any person.

**PART VI - REPEAL**

**REPEAL**                                    22            Bylaw 16311, Election Bylaw, is repealed.

(NOTE: Consolidation made under Section 69 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26 and Bylaw 16620 Section 16, and printed under the City Manager’s authority)

Bylaw 19408, passed by Council July 29, 2020

Amendments:

Bylaw 19567, January 7, 2021