

2020 By-election

Committee of the Whole

December 12, 2019



1

Background

- Vacancy on Council resulting from Councillor Collins' resignation on November 4, 2019
- City elections are complex
- Require significant staffing and infrastructure
- By-elections generally produce lower voter turn out than general elections



2020 By-Election

2

Legislative Requirements

- Except in the last year of a Council term, a vacant position must be filled
- Council must appoint a Chief Election Officer “as soon as practicable” and advise the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the election
- Once the Chief Election Officer is appointed, general voting day must occur within 80 days of the appointment (on a Saturday)



2020 By-Election

3

Considerations

- Logistical issues such as voting locations, staffing and infrastructure
- For general elections these are pre-planned well ahead of general voting day
- By-elections require pre-planning time as well and the decisions being requested impact the timelines significantly
- Resource implications for staff on ‘core work’ in some departments



2020 By-Election

4

Options

Option 1: Modified Election	Option 2: Standard Election
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Voting Day locations • 8 Advance Voting (City Hall) • Mail Ballot Voting • Utilize existing communications channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Election information posted on Victoria.ca – Connect Newsletter – E-Newsletter – Social Media to compliment statutory advertising – Media Alerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Voting Day locations • 5 Advance Voting (City Hall) • Mail Ballot Voting • 14 Special Voting at Care Homes • Additional communication channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advertising (non-statutory) in both traditional and online media – Times Colonist front page wrap – Voter card mail-out – Promotion through parking pay station signage, digital signage, Connect Newsletter – Candidate Profile on Victoria.ca – Voting day encouragements – Posters and rack cards
\$140,000 – 170,000	\$320,000 – 360,000
March 14, 2020	April 18, 2020



2020 By-Election

5

Implications

Option 1: Modified Election	Option 2: Standard Election
<p>Three-month delay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Bylaw Review • Fencing Regulations for Deer Management • Rise and Report Policy • Lobbyist Registry • Open Government Strategy • Website Accessibility Improvements • General ability to review and compile Committee and Council minutes in a timely manner. <p>* The Noise Bylaw is expected to be delayed as a result of the Municipal Aclhoal Policy work as well</p>	<p>Three months delay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing Regulations for Deer Management • Rise and Report Policy • Website Accessibility Improvements <p>Three to six-month delay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbyist Registry • Video Submissions to Public Hearings/Request to Address Council • Noise Control Bylaw Review • Open Government Strategy • General ability to review and compile Committee and Council minutes in a timely manner



2020 By-Election

6

Recommendations

That Council direct staff to proceed with Option 1 a modified by-election process and report back on final timing, cost estimates and appointment of a Chief Election Officer in January 2020.

