

# 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"> <li>• 4 Voting Day locations</li> <li>• 8 Advance Voting (City Hall)</li> <li>• Mail Ballot Voting</li> <li>• Utilize existing communications channels:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Election information posted on Victoria.ca</li> <li>– Connect Newsletter</li> <li>– E-Newsletter</li> <li>– Social Media to compliment statutory advertising</li> <li>– Media Alerts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Voting Day locations</li> <li>• 5 Advance Voting (City Hall)</li> <li>• Mail Ballot Voting</li> <li>• 14 Special Voting at Care Homes</li> <li>• Additional communication channels:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Advertising (non-statutory) in both traditional and online media</li> <li>– Times Colonist front page wrap</li> <li>– Voter card mail-out</li> <li>– Promotion through parking pay station signage, digital signage, Connect Newsletter</li> <li>– Candidate Profile on Victoria.ca</li> <li>– Voting day encouragements</li> <li>– Posters and rack cards</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
\$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><b>Three-month delay:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise Bylaw Review</li> <li>• Fencing Regulations for Deer Management</li> <li>• Rise and Report Policy</li> <li>• Lobbyist Registry</li> <li>• Open Government Strategy</li> <li>• Website Accessibility Improvements</li> <li>• General ability to review and compile Committee and Council minutes in a timely manner.</li> </ul> <p>* The Noise Bylaw is expected to be delayed as a result of the Municipal Aclhohal Policy work as well</p>	<p><b>Three months delay:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing Regulations for Deer Management</li> <li>• Rise and Report Policy</li> <li>• Website Accessibility Improvements</li> </ul> <p><b>Three to six-month delay:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbyist Registry</li> <li>• Video Submissions to Public Hearings/Request to Address Council</li> <li>• Noise Control Bylaw Review</li> <li>• Open Government Strategy</li> <li>• General ability to review and compile Committee and Council minutes in a timely manner</li> </ul>



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.



2020 By-Election