



## LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

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<b>TO:</b>	Council		
<b>DATE:</b>	June 29, 2021	<b>DIVISION:</b>	All
<b>FILE:</b>	N/A	<b>APPLICATION:</b>	N/A
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Additional Voting Opportunities for the 2021 Municipal Election		

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### POLICY DIRECTION:

The *Local Authorities Election Act* (the 'Act') states that Council may pass resolutions on a number of decisions regarding the conduct of an election.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council options to increase access to voting opportunities for electors in Rocky View County.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Option 1 Special Ballots

##### Eligibility

An elector who is unable to vote at an advance vote or at the voting station on election day because of:

- a) physical disability,
  - b) absence from the local jurisdiction, or
  - c) being a returning officer, deputy returning officer, substitute returning officer, constable, candidate, official agent or scrutineer who may be located on election day at a voting station other than that for the elector's place of residence.
- Special Ballots are the most comprehensive and efficient option to ensure all electors with a barrier to vote, have an opportunity to vote in the upcoming municipal election.
  - The Province of Alberta has recommended Special Ballots to facilitate voting for on-reserve First Nation members who may have limited access to voting stations.
  - The implementation of Special Ballots, along with advance voting stations, help to reduce lines and wait times at the voting station on Election Day.
  - Special Ballots would provide an alternative for electors who don't want to travel very far to access either the advance voting stations or Election Day voting station
  - This is the only option for electors who are absent from the local jurisdiction during the advance poll and on Election Day to cast a vote.

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#### Administration Resources

Sherri Bureyko, Legislative Services



## Option 2 Elector Assistance At Home (Incapacitated Voter) and Institutional Vote

### Eligibility

Electors that, because of physical disability, are unable to attend a voting station or advance voting station to vote would be eligible for elector assistance at home.

The Prince of Peace Seniors Residence in Division 6 would be eligible to be an Institutional Voting location. Historically, The Prince of Peace Seniors Residence has been a public voting station for many elections. Due to Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions site administration has determined that a public voting station cannot be held at their location in 2021.

- Incapacitated Voting would be available to electors, by appointment only, during the same date and hours of the advance poll.
- Institutional Voting allows the Returning Officer to work directly with site administration to provide the most appropriate voting opportunity for their residents.
- The Prince of Peace Seniors Residence has capacity for up to 191 residents who may be eligible to vote in this election.
- If not authorized, the only other voting opportunity for this population to cast a vote would be by Special Ballot.

### **CONCLUSION:**

There are several factors for Council to consider when weighing these options. Voting accessibility for Incapacitated voters, the residents of the Prince of Peace Seniors Residence, electors who will not be in the County on election day, and the residents of the Tsuut'ina Nation will all be impacted by this decision of Council.

- Option 1 would provide an additional opportunity for all eligible voters to cast a ballot in the 2021 municipal election.
- Option 2 would accommodate the needs of incapacitated voters and the residents of the Prince of Peace Seniors Center to cast a ballot in the 2021 municipal election.
- Option 3 would provide multiple additional opportunities for all eligible voters to cast a ballot in the 2021 municipal election.

Should none of these options be accepted, electors in Rocky View County will have the following options for voting; attending the advance vote or a voting station in person on election day.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no budget implications at this time.

### **OPTIONS:**

#### Special Ballots Only:

Option #1: THAT, pursuant to section 77.1(2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the use of special ballots for the 2021 municipal election in accordance with the following:

- electors may apply to the Returning Officer for special ballots in writing, by telephone, in person, or by email;



- applications must include the information outlined in section 77.1(2.4) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*; and
- special ballots must be received by the Returning Officer on or before 4:00pm on Thursday October 14, 2021 pursuant to section 77.2(3.1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

*Institutional and Incapacitated Voting Only:*

Option #2: Motion 1: THAT, pursuant to section 79(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the Returning Officer to provide for the attendance of two Deputy Returning Officers at the residence of an elector upon request for the purpose of taking votes for the 2021 municipal election.

Motion 2: THAT, pursuant to section 80(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the Returning Officer to designate the location of one or more institutional voting stations for the 2021 municipal election.

*Both Special Ballots and Institutional and Incapacitated Voting:*

Option #3: Motion 1: THAT, pursuant to section 77.1(2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the use of special ballots for the 2021 municipal election in accordance with the following:

- electors may apply to the Returning Officer for special ballots in writing, by telephone, in person, or by email;
- applications must include the information outlined in section 77.1(2.4) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*; and
- special ballots must be received by the Returning Officer on or before 4:00pm on Thursday October 14, 2021 pursuant to section 77.2(3.1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Motion 2: THAT, pursuant to section 79(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the Returning Officer to provide for the attendance of two Deputy Returning Officers at the residence of an elector upon request for the purpose of taking votes for the 2021 municipal election.

Motion 3: THAT, pursuant to section 80(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Council authorizes the Returning Officer to designate the location of one or more institutional voting stations for the 2021 municipal election.

Option #4: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

"Amy Zaluski"

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Director  
Legislative Services

Concurrence,

"Kent Robinson"

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer