



REQUEST FOR DECISION

File # 4200-20

Report To: **Mayor and Council**
From: **Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer**
Subject: **Administration Report No. 0103/26
2026 Local General Election and Assent Vote**
Meeting: **Regular Council**
Meeting Date: **June 8, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT, Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer, be appointed as the Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election, to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, including any assent voting proceedings;
AND THAT, Christina Brace, Deputy Corporate Officer, be appointed as the Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election, including any assent voting proceedings;
AND FURTHER THAT, the Chief Election Officer be authorized to appoint additional Election Officials as required to conduct the election and any assent voting proceedings in accordance with the *Local Government Act*."

CAO'S COMMENTS:

The appointment of the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer is one of the steps that is required as the municipality prepares for elections this fall.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT, ****insert name**** be appointed as the Chief Election Officer, and ****insert name**** be appointed as the Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election being held on Saturday October 17, 2026,
AND THAT, the Chief Election Officer be authorized to appoint additional Election Officials as required."

KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED:

The purpose of this report is to appoint a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer in accordance with section 58 of the *Local Government Act*, which requires every local government to make these appointments to administer the election process.

The Chief Election Officer is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the election, including appointing election officials, establishing voting opportunities, administering candidate nominations, and ensuring compliance with applicable legislation.

RELEVANT POLICY:

Local Government Act Section 58

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PILLARS:

Vibrant Community – Invest in community safety, social, cultural, and recreational programs.

Relationships & Advocacy – Initiate and foster relationships and advocate to decision makers on the issues that impact our community and our neighbours.

Economic Development – Enhance community economic development to provide opportunities and sustainability for Fort St. John.

Organizational Excellence – Provide a healthy workplace that is inclusive and builds on our diversity, engagement, and sense of community.

Managing Assets – Build and manage assets that support the current and future needs of the community.

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

N/A

GENERAL:

The 2026 General Local Election is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Initial preparatory work has been undertaken to support the upcoming election; however, formal appointment of a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer is required to carry out statutory responsibilities.

The City will also be seeking approval of electors for a proposed borrowing initiative for a new aquatics facility through an assent vote to be conducted in conjunction with the 2026 General Local Election.

Following the appointment of Officers, election planning and administration activities will continue, including confirming voting opportunities, preparing materials, coordinating staffing, and ensuring legislative compliance.

Preliminary administrative preparations are already underway, including a review of election procedures and coordination of internal requirements.

ORGANIZATIONAL:

Key dates for the 2026 General Local Election include:

- March 10, 2026 – Last possible date to meet the 6-month BC residency requirement for candidates seeking nomination (unless the nomination period is extended)
- March 13, 2026 – If nomination period is extended, last possible date to meet the 6-month residency requirement
- April 17, 2026 – Last possible date to meet the 6-month BC residency requirement for registering on General Voting Day
- September 1, 2026 – Nomination period begins (9:00 a.m.)
- September 11, 2026 – Nomination period ends (4:00 p.m.)
- September 15, 2026 – Deadline for challenge of nominations (4:00 p.m.)
- September 16, 2026 – Last possible date to meet 30-day property ownership requirement for non-resident property electors
- September 19, 2026 – Campaign period begins
- October 7, 2026 – Required advance voting opportunity
- October 14, 2026 – Additional advance voting opportunity (as required by bylaw)
- October 17, 2026 – General Voting Day

FINANCIAL:

Funding for the 2026 General Local Election, including any assent voting proceedings, has been incorporated within the City's approved operating budget.

All costs associated with election administration will be managed within existing budget allocations.

FOLLOW UP ACTION:

Upon Council approval, staff will proceed with formal notification to Elections BC of the appointments and continue implementation of the election workplan.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Community Consultation is not required for this report.

COMMUNICATION:

Mandatory advertising is required for local government elections.

In addition to statutory requirements, staff are developing a communications plan to promote awareness of voting opportunities and to encourage voter participation.

Staff will consider opportunities to enhance accessibility and voter participation, including advance voting and mail ballot options.

DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS REPORT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer