

Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Action Request

Meeting:	Committee of the Whole Meeting
Meeting Date:	April 15, 2025
Originated By:	Stephanie Severin, Manager of Legislative and Information Services
Title:	Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw

PROPOSAL

In December 2024 Council passed Bylaw No. 1881 Elections Bylaw which establishes the rules and procedures for the conduct of municipal elections within the Municipal District of Bonnyville.

Administration is presenting a proposed amendment to Bylaw No. 1881 to allow the Returning Officer to start counting Advance Vote and Special ballots as early as 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

DISCUSSION

Section 85.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-21 authorizes the Returning Officer to designate a single location as a counting centre, if a ward or division system exists in a local jurisdiction, for the purpose of counting the special ballot box, advance vote ballot box and institutional vote, and further allows Council to pass a bylaw, by June 30 of an election year, allowing the Returning Officer to count these ballots no earlier than 7:30 p.m. on election day.

The proposed Bylaw No. 1895 would amend subsections 7.3(c) and 8.12 of the current Elections Bylaw No. 1881 to allow the Returning Officer to order the counting of Advance Vote and Special ballot boxes at 7:30 p.m., instead of the current indicated time of 8:00 p.m.

With the removal of tabulators for the Municipal Election and longer wait times for results due to hand counting of ballots after the closing of a polling station, we are hoping to reduce ballots at polling stations (and subsequently counting time) on Election Day by holding more Advance Vote days and encouraging the use of Special Ballots since the criteria for use has been removed. As such, we are anticipating more votes to count for advance vote days and special ballots. Being able to start counting these ballots at 7:30 p.m. will help reduce wait times for results at the end of Election Day.

Attached for Council's review:

- Appendix A: Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw
- Appendix B: Current Bylaw No. 1881 Elections Bylaw

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Local Authorities Election Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-21, Section 85.1

BUDGET IMPACTS

No budget impacts

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommends to Council passing Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw, as presented.

OPTIONS

1. THAT the Committee recommends to Council passing Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw, as presented.
2. THAT the Committee recommends to Council passing Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw, with revisions as follows: _____.
3. THAT the Committee refers proposed Bylaw No. 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw back to Administration for additional information regarding _____ and to bring it back to a future meeting.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Bylaw No. 1895 - Amending Elections Bylaw - Review.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A - Bylaw No 1895 Amending Elections Bylaw.docx - Appendix B - Bylaw No 1881.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 8, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Stephanie Severin