

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Corporate Services

Date: April 13, 2026

Subject: 2026 Chief Elections Officer and Deputy Elections Officer Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT pursuant to Section 58(1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act* Emily Kaehn be appointed Chief Election Officer for conducting the 2026 General Local Election and assent voting with power to appoint other election officials as required;

AND THAT Catherine Smith be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election.

BACKGROUND:

In British Columbia, general local elections for Mayor, Councillors, Regional District Electoral Area Directors, and School Board Trustees are held every four years on the third Saturday of October. The 2026 General Local Election will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

The District of Mackenzie Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer will conduct the 2026 Municipal Election and operate ballot boxes on behalf of partner agencies if requested. The following is the proposed timeline for the general local election:

July 2026	Nomination Packages Available
September 1, 2026	Nomination Period Begins at 9:00 am
September 8, 2026	First day to request a mail ballot
September 11, 2026	Nomination period closes at 4:00 pm
September 11, 2026	After 4:00 pm Declaration of Candidates
September 19, 2026	Campaign period begins
October 7, 2026	Advanced Voting Day #1
October 15, 2026	Last day to request a mail ballot
October 16, 2026	Advanced Voting Day #2 Special Voting Opportunity at Hospital
October 17, 2026	General Voting Day

Voter Information

All election information will be published on the 2026 General Local Election Let's Chat Mackenzie page, which will be going live at the end of April. Statutory notices will be mailed as public notices as well as advertised on Let's Chat Mackenzie, the District website, the District Facebook page, posted on District bulletin boards, and shared with local media.

Candidate Information Sessions

Staff are planning to host two candidate information sessions that will provide an overview of the election process and nomination requirements/packages, a brief introduction to the District and Council, Council's role and responsibilities, review the current Council strategic priorities, and answer any questions. The first session will take place in early June and the second session will take place in August.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Diane Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer