

MOTION ON NOTICE

10. Changing the Campaign Period and Candidate Requirements for Civic Elections

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. The top three reported barriers for non-voters in the 2018 Vancouver election were not knowing enough about the candidates (29%), the campaign issues (22%), and a high number of candidates (20%), according to a post-election survey conducted by Insights West on behalf of the City of Vancouver;
2. The City of Vancouver typically has a very high number of candidates running for office each election compared to other jurisdictions in BC and across Canada. However with 158 candidates in 2018, Vancouver had almost double the number of candidates that Surrey had, the next largest municipality in BC (83 candidates), and the City of Vancouver's ballot was the largest ballot that the City's ballot tabulator vendor had ever prepared in Canada;
3. Municipal voters in BC have only 36 days prior to Election Day (the close of the candidate nomination period) to find out who is running for office, and for candidates to inform voters about their campaigns. This compares to other jurisdictions, such as the City of Toronto, where the nomination period is longer (almost three months versus 10 days for BC municipalities) and closes 87 days prior to Election Day;
4. The *Vancouver Charter* and Local Government Act govern the nomination requirements for candidates running for office in municipal elections in BC. The maximum nomination deposit amount of \$100 has not been updated in the *Vancouver Charter* since 1999 and the number of nominators required (25) for candidates has not been updated in the *Vancouver Charter* since 2008.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver strongly advocate to the Province to amend the *Vancouver Charter* to:
 - a. Increase the number of nominators required for candidates running for City of Vancouver office to 100 nominators for Council, Park Board and School Board, and 200 nominators for Mayor, to reflect the responsibility and competencies required for those elected to these positions;
 - b. Increase the maximum nomination deposit requirement for candidates from \$100 to \$150 to reflect inflationary increases since 1999.

- B. THAT City of Vancouver forward to the Union of BC Municipalities for inclusion as a resolution at its 2019 Convention the request that the Province extend the campaign period for BC municipalities from 29 days to 80 days and move the candidate nomination period commensurately to prior to the campaign period in order to provide more time for voters to learn about the candidates and campaign issues and for candidates to educate voters on their campaigns, and increase the time period when funding for third party election advertising is subject to public disclosure.

* * * * *