

COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date:January 15, 2025Contact:Paul MochrieContact No.:604.873.7666RTS No.:17655VanRIMS No.:08-2000-20Meeting Date:January 21, 2025Submit comments to Council

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Local Government By-election 2025

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council appoint the City Clerk as the Chief Election Officer for the conduct of a by-election to fill two vacancies on Vancouver City Council arising from Councillor resignations.
- B. THAT on behalf of Vancouver City Council, the City Clerk notify the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs of the by-election as required by section 10(4) of the Vancouver Charter.

Purpose and Executive Summary

Staff are recommending that Council appoint the City Clerk as the Chief Election Officer for the purpose of conducting a by-election.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

On December 12, 2024, the City Clerk received former Councillor Christine Boyle's written resignation from office as a member of Vancouver City Council. On January 15, 2025, the City Clerk received former Councillor Adriane Carr's written resignation from office as a member of Vancouver City Council. Under section 142(2) of the *Vancouver* Charter, a resignation from office becomes effective when it is received by the City Clerk, even if a later date is set out in the resignation, and the resignation may not be revoked after it is received. Under section

10(1)(b) and 10(3) of the *Vancouver Charter*, an election must be held to fill a vacancy in the Council if the person holding the office resigns and the resulting vacancy occurs prior to January 1 in the year of the general local election. The next general local election will occur on October 17, 2026.

Section 142(3) of the *Vancouver Charter* requires that the City Clerk notify Council of a resignation at the next Council meeting after the resignation is received. Council will be formally notified of the resignation at the Council meeting on January 21, 2025.

Section 10(4) of the *Vancouver Charter* also states that Council must appoint a chief election officer as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs for which an election must be held. Council must also notify the minister of the election. Therefore, staff are requesting that Council appoint the City Clerk as the Chief Election Officer to oversee the by-election and that Council direct the Chief Election Officer to inform the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs about the by-election on behalf of Council.

If Council appoints the Chief Election Officer on January 21, 2025, general voting day for the local by-election will be Saturday, April 5, 2025. This is in accordance with section 10(5) of the *Vancouver Charter* which requires that the general voting day be on a Saturday no later than 80 days after the date the Chief Election Officer was appointed. Upon appointment of a Chief Election Officer by Council, the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections BC will also be notified of the by-election date.

The 2025 by-election is an unanticipated expense for the City, as by-elections are a relatively rare occurrence in Vancouver. The most recent City of Vancouver by-election was held in 2017 following a Councillor's resignation, which resulted in a voter turnout of 10.99% and cost the City \$1.5 million. The last by-election before that was in 1992.

Discussion

2025 Local By-Election

The general election requirements as set out in Part I of the *Vancouver Charter* apply to byelections. The requirements set out in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, which is administered by Elections BC, also apply.

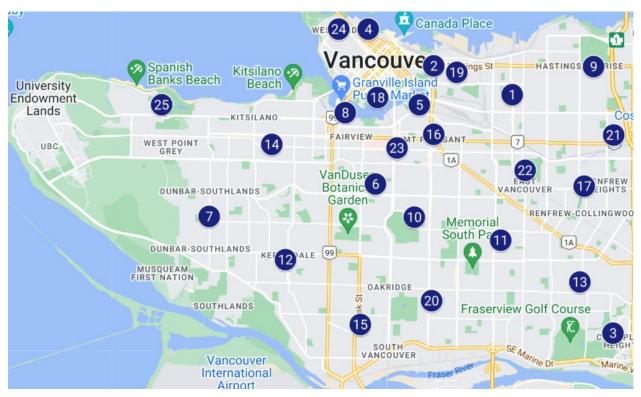
Key dates in relation to the by-election are as follows:

By-election Event	Date
Candidate information packages available	February 3
Advance Registration ends	February 11
Voters List - Public inspection period begins	February 18
Nomination period	February 18 – February 28
Declaration of candidates	February 28

Random ballot name order draw	March 7
Declaration of election by voting	March 10
Mail ballot packages available	March 18
Advance voting days at City Hall (8 am – 8 pm)	March 26*
	April 1
General voting day (8 am – 8 pm)	April 5
Declaration of official election results	April 9
Elected candidates to take oath of office	Late April/
	Early May

*First day of Advance Voting will be during Spring Break

It is anticipated that 25 voting places will be established for general voting day on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 8 am - 8 pm. Staff are in the process of securing the operating agreements for the use of the facilities. Voting places are planned to be held in 24 community centres and 1 City facility (see map and list of locations below).



List of General Voting Day Voting Places

- 1. Britannia Community Services Centre
- 2. Carnegie Community Centre
- 3. Champlain Heights Community Centre

- 4. Coal Harbour Community Centre
- 5. Creekside Community Recreation Centre
- 6. Douglas Park Community Centre
- 7. Dunbar Community Centre
- 8. False Creek Community Centre
- 9. Hastings Community Centre
- 10. Hillcrest Centre
- 11. Kensington Community Centre
- 12. Kerrisdale Community Centre
- 13. Killarney Community Centre
- 14. Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre
- 15. Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre
- 16. Mount Pleasant Community Centre
- 17. Renfrew Park Community Centre
- 18. Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre
- 19. Strathcona Community Centre
- 20. Sunset Community Centre
- 21. Thunderbird Community Centre
- 22. Trout Lake Community Centre
- 23. Vancouver City Hall
- 24. West End Community Centre
- 25. West Point Grey Community Centre

Voters may vote in advance. Advance voting is planned to be held at City Hall from 8 am – 8 pm on March 26, 2025, and April 1, 2025, as required by section 3.2 of the City's Election By-law No. 9070. Voters will be able to vote at any voting place on general voting day.

Mail ballot voting (vote by mail) will also be available to all eligible voters for the by-election.

Financial Implications

The estimated budget for the 2025 by-election is \$2 million. A breakdown of the local 2025 by-election budget is as follows:

2025 Local By-Election Budget

Category	2025
Election Office	\$740,000
Election Workers	\$150,000
Voting Places and Supplies	\$55,000
Vote by Mail	\$40,000
Communications & Digital	\$240,000
Voting Equipment/Technology	\$600,000

Contingency	\$175,000
Total	\$2,000,000

The funding source for the local by-election is the City's Election Reserve. As part of the City's annual operating budget process, \$1.5 million is allocated to this reserve each year to provide funding for General Local Election and by-election costs. Currently, this reserve has a balance of \$4.3 million. Further planned allocations will be made to the Election Reserve to ensure sufficient funds are available for the 2026 General Local Election.

Legal Implications

If the Recommendations in this report are adopted, Council will appoint a Chief Election Officer and the Chief Election Officer will inform the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs of the byelection.

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