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City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: March 28, 2007  
FILE: 113-01  
  
TO: City Manager  
  
FROM: Boundary Extension Review Team  
  
RE: Westside Governance – Voting Process Upon Amalgamation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approve, subject to results of the consultation process currently underway with the citizens of Kelowna and if the Westside Governance Study Area voters favour amalgamation with the City of Kelowna, the Neighbourhood Constituency voting process for municipal elections in 2008 and 2011;

AND THAT the City of Kelowna create two neighbourhood constituencies, one for all municipal lands on the east side of Okanagan Lake bridge having eight elected Council representatives and one for the west side of Okanagan Lake bridge having two elected Council representatives;

AND THAT the Mayor be elected at-large by both neighbourhood constituencies;

AND THAT the voting process for the City of Kelowna revert to the At-Large system for the Mayor and all Councillors beginning in 2014;

AND THAT Council defer consideration to retain the ten Council representatives or to revert back to the current eight Council representatives for municipal elections beyond 2011;

AND THAT the Minister of Community Services be advised of the approved recommendations to facilitate development of the Supplementary Letters Patent for the City of Kelowna;

AND FURTHER THAT the Westside Governance Committee be advised of the approved recommendations and requested to add this information to their website and communication materials.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the March 26, 2007 regular meeting, the range of voting system options for an amalgamated City were reviewed with Council with the intent of seeking comments to assist the Boundary Extension Review Team in bringing forward a recommendation at the April 2, 2007 meeting. To summarize, the voting systems available under the Local Government Act are:

- At-Large
- Neighbourhood Constituency
- Mixed – Options A and B considered

### At-Large

- Everyone votes for Mayor and 10 Councillors
- Is the preferred election method province-wide
- Easy to explain, understand and administer
- Does not recognize the Westside distinctly
- Default process in 2014

### Neighbourhood Constituency

- Westside is one NH constituency - votes for 2 Councillors; Mayor at-large
- Kelowna is one NH constituency – votes for 8 Councillors; Mayor at-large
- Easy to explain and understand
- Recognizes population ratios and guarantees representation for the Westside

### Mixed – Option A

- Westside is one NH constituency - votes for 2 Councillors
- Kelowna is one NH constituency – votes for 6 Councillors
- Mayor and 2 Councillors elected at-large
- Compatible with Council's resolution
- Representation guaranteed for both Westside & Kelowna
- More difficult to explain and understand

### Mixed – Option B

- Westside is the only NH constituency - votes for 2 Councillors
- Westside & Kelowna votes for Mayor and 8 Councillors at-large
- Most closely aligns with Council's resolution
- Representation guaranteed for Westside but potential for under-represented Kelowna
- More difficult to explain and understand

## **LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Local Government Act – Section 36.1

**LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Adoption of a bylaw under Section 36.1 will be required subsequent to a decision on amalgamation.

**INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:**

City Clerk

**EXISTING POLICY:**

Presently, all Council members and the Mayor are elected at-large.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Neighbourhood Constituency voting would increase the cost of municipal elections due to increased complexity in preparing for the elections (multiple ballot preparations, more complex programming for voting machines, etc.), the increased advertising and public notification that would be necessary to explain the process, likely increased staffing and staff training costs, and other costs. Staff has not had an opportunity to estimate the actual dollar value, as compared to the increase that would occur simply by having the Westside area join Kelowna under an at-large election format as the City currently has.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

A NC voting system would have personnel implications at election times.

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT Council approve, subject to results of the consultation process currently underway with the citizens of Kelowna and if the Westside Governance Study Area voters favour amalgamation with the City of Kelowna, the Mixed voting process for municipal elections in 2008 and 2011;

AND THAT the City of Kelowna create two neighbourhood constituencies, one for all municipal lands on the east side of Okanagan Lake bridge having six elected Council representatives and one for the west side of Okanagan Lake bridge having two elected Council representatives;

AND THAT the Mayor and two Council representatives be elected at-large by both neighbourhood constituencies;

AND THAT the voting process for the City of Kelowna revert to the At-Large system beginning in 2014;

AND THAT Council defer consideration to retain the ten Council representatives or to revert back to the current eight Council representatives for municipal elections beyond 2011;

AND THAT the Minister of Community Services be advised of the approved recommendations to facilitate development of the Supplementary Letters Patent for the City of Kelowna;

AND FURTHER THAT the Westside Governance Committee be advised of the approved recommendations and requested to add this information to their website and communication materials.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Submitted by:

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P. Macklem, Director of Financial Services  
On behalf of the Boundary Extension Review Team

Cc: Director of Corporate Development      Director of Works & Utilities  
Communications Manager                      Director of Corporate Services