
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2008

File No.:

To: City Manager

From: Chief Election Officer (City Clerk)

Subject: 2008 General Local Government Election Report

Report Prepared by: *Deputy City Clerk*

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the final report from the Chief Election Officer for the 2008 General Local Government Election be received.

BACKGROUND:

Official Results:

The official results of the 2008 election were declared, as required by the *Local Government Act*, on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. A summary of those results, with a summary of the ballot account, is attached to this report.

Advance Voting Opportunities:

The dates, times, and location of advance voting opportunities were set by Council, through Bylaw No. 9995, which was adopted on July 21, 2008. There were two advance voting opportunities, both at Parkinson Recreation Centre, on November 5 and November 12, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. A total of one thousand five hundred and twenty one electors cast ballots at the advance voting opportunities.

Special Voting Opportunities:

Special voting opportunities were offered to facilities in Kelowna that were licensed to provide "complex care" to their residents, as well as to Kelowna General Hospital. Seven special voting opportunities were held in the days prior to general voting day at the facilities themselves, with a special voting opportunity at Kelowna General Hospital on general voting day itself. Special voting is limited, by Bylaw No. 9995, to patients, residents and staff of the facilities at which the voting was held. A total of two hundred and seventy five electors cast ballots at the special voting opportunities.

Mail-In Voting Opportunities:

Mail-in voting opportunities were offered to the electorate in the 2008 Municipal Election with a total of fifty-one requests for mail-in ballot packages. The number of mail-in ballots returned and accepted as valid votes for the election was twenty-five.

General Voting Opportunities:

General voting was held on November 15, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at twenty locations spread throughout Kelowna. This was an increase of four from the number of general voting locations at the 2005 municipal election, and a total increase of ten from the number of general voting locations at the 2002 local government election. Voter turnout was low in five locations, receiving fewer than

500 voters, with the majority of voters spread evenly throughout the city, including eight locations receiving between 500-1000 voters, and six between 1000-1300 voters. The highest voter turnout was once again at the Rutland Senior Secondary School location (1593).

Estimated turnout for the City of Kelowna election this year was 19.6%.

Alternative Opportunities for Voting:

The *Local Government Act* provided greater flexibility for residents to vote in the 2008 Municipal Election, including mail-in voting opportunities, and advance voting opportunities with no restrictions for eligible electors.

We had several inquiries during this election from City of Kelowna residents, and a resolution from the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, with respect to voting opportunities that would ensure both the secrecy and the independence of the vote for people with visual disabilities. Currently, voters may request assistance to mark a ballot from individuals who complete a Declaration of Assistance to an Elector.

The mail-in voting opportunity was an option available for voters with a physical disability, illness or injury that would affect their ability to vote at a regular voting place OR for voters who are going to be out of town on all voting days. The existing legislative requirements however provided a very limited window of opportunity in which to finalize the ballots, receive them, mail, and return by mail, the marked ballots to be counted in the election. Amendments to the *Local Government Act* to enhance this voting opportunity would be beneficial to residents in future elections. Staff will be following up with the Ministry regarding the effectiveness of the recent amendments

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS: *Local Government Act, S.148*

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:
LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:
EXISTING POLICY:
FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:
EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:
COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:
ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:


Stephen Fleming, City Clerk/Chief Election Officer

Approved for Inclusion:  Director, Corporate Services

Summary of Results and Ballot Accounts

<i>Candidate</i>	Votes	%
SHEPHERD, Sharon	12770	75.89
OUELLETTE, Kim	4056	24.11

Councillor (8)

<i>Candidate</i>	Votes	%
HOBSON, Robert Douglas	9198	8.05
GIVEN, Brian	8335	7.30
BLANLEIL, Andre	7963	6.97
REID, Angela	6213	5.44
RULE, Michele	6011	5.26
JAMES, Graeme	5644	4.94
STACK, Luke	5090	4.46
HODGE, Charlie	4683	4.10
CRAIG, Kevin	4644	4.06
PIKE, Toby	4401	3.85
GRAHAM, Mary-Ann (Maggie)	4294	3.76
NICHOLL, Shelley	3869	3.39
PENDHARKAR, Murli	3504	3.07
STONE, Cheryl	3112	2.72
GATES, Joe	3033	2.65
FORSSTROM, Gunnar	2996	2.62
MARSHALL, John	2844	2.49
ZEGER, John	2660	2.33
MACK, Perry	2624	2.30
BIRKER, Dorothee	2552	2.23
HLADY, Jerry	2423	2.12
HENRY, Janice	2174	1.90
THOMPSON, Mark	2173	1.90
RAJABALLY, Mo	1907	1.67
SIMONE, Lisa	1817	1.59
GEBHARD, Gretchen	1555	1.36
ROCK, Jason	1213	1.06
REED, Matthew	1184	1.04
POWELL, Andrew	1091	0.95
RATHWELL, JC	1029	0.90
MANTON, John T.	962	0.84
WARIACH, Crystal	835	0.73
FORBES, H. Donald	696	0.61
VAUGHN, Bill	597	0.52
LANOUE, Cody	566	0.50
YULE, Scott	352	0.31

School Trustee (4)

<i>Candidate</i>	Votes	%
HORNING, Wayne	7960	18.09
CACCHIONI, Rolli	7475	16.99
GIVEN, Gail	6191	14.07
SCANLAN, Gail	5320	12.09
CHUNG, Stan	3975	9.04
REIMER, Carolyn	3567	8.11
ZORN, Lynda	2894	6.58
KNIGHT, Richard	2683	6.10
McRAE WHITE, Theresa	2491	5.66
WHITELEY, Robert F.	1438	3.27

	Mayor	Councillor	School Trustee
Total number of ballots given out:	18,500	18,500	18,484
Ballots rejected: (over voted or blank voted on that race)	1445	96	96
Spoiled Ballots:	230	230	230
Ballots accepted with valid marks	16, 825	18,174	18,158
Total:	18,500	18,500	18,484