

## **BYLAW 2021-04**

### **BEING A BYLAW OF WHEATLAND COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c. L-21, provides for the conduct of Elections by local authorities; and

WHEREAS the Act permits the local authority to pass bylaws for the conduct of such Elections.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of Wheatland County in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts as follows:

#### **1.0.0 Title**

1.1.0 This bylaw may be cited as the "*Election Bylaw*".

#### **2.0.0 Definitions**

2.1.0 "Ballot" means the printed Ballot card that indicates:

- 2.1.1) office to be voted on,
- 2.1.2) names of the candidates,
- 2.1.3) bylaw name and number or questions if any; and
- 2.1.4) spaces in which the Elector is to mark their votes.

2.2.0 "Ballot Box" means a container for Ballot Cards that have been marked by Electors.

2.3.0 "Ballot Card(s)" means a paper card listing the office and associated candidates that are subject to the Election and any bylaw or question to be voted on in the Election.

2.4.0 "Council" means the Council of Wheatland County elected pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

2.5.0 "Counting Centre" means an area designated by the Returning Officer in a controlled access building and equipped for the tabulation of Election results.

2.6.0 "DRO" means a Deputy Returning Officer appointed by the Returning Officer.

2.7.0 "Election" means a municipal general Election, first Election, or by-Election and a vote on a bylaw or question.

2.8.0 "Election Day" means the day fixed for voting at an Election pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

2.9.0 "Elector" means a person eligible under the *Local Authorities Election Act* to vote in an Election.

2.10.0 "Marking Device" means a writing instrument approved by the Returning Officer for use by an Elector to mark a Ballot Card.

2.11.0 "Nomination Day" means the day that is four (4) weeks before Election Day.

2.12.0 "PDRO" means a person who has been appointed as a presiding deputy returning officer in charge of a Voting Station.

2.13.0 "Secrecy Sleeve" means an open-ended envelope, intended to be used to cover a Ballot Card to conceal the markings made by the Elector without covering the initials of the DRO.

2.14.0 "Spoiled Ballot Card" means a Ballot Card that has been returned by the Elector and spoiled pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

2.15.0 "County" means the municipal corporation of Wheatland County, in the Province of Alberta.

2.16.0 "Voting Station" means the place where an Elector votes.

### **3.0.0 General**

#### **Joint Elections**

3.1.0 The Returning Officer is authorized to enter into agreements, on behalf of the County, to conduct Elections on behalf of another Local Jurisdiction, if requested, in Wheatland County whose boundaries may or may not be contiguous with the County but do have areas in common.

#### **Nominations and Withdrawal of Nominations**

3.2.0 Nomination papers shall be received at the Wheatland County municipal office, located at SE-16-24-24-W4, #242006, RR #243 (7 km East of Strathmore).

3.2.1 After the Returning Officer accepts a nomination, the name of the candidate shall be posted on the Wheatland County website.

3.2.2 A deposit will not be collected.

3.2.3 A person nominated as a candidate may withdraw their nomination any time during the nomination period in accordance with section 32 of the LAEA, subject to the following:

3.2.3.1. the person withdrawing their nomination must provide their withdrawal in writing and in person to the Returning Officer;

3.2.3.2. the withdrawal must include the person's name and the office for which they were nominated, and the withdrawal must be signed and dated by the person, and;

3.2.3.3. the person's withdrawal is effective on the date written notice is received by the Returning Officer in accordance with section 3.2.3.1 of this bylaw.

#### **Voting Hours on Election Day**

3.3.0 Voting Stations in Wheatland County will be kept open continuously on election day from 10:00a.m. until 8:00p.m.

#### **Voting Stations on Election Day**

3.4.0 The Returning Officer is authorized to designate more than one Voting Station and the location of those Voting Stations in each division for the Election.

#### **Ballot Cards**

3.5.0 Candidates' names shall be listed on the Ballot Card alphabetically by last name. Each last name will be capitalized and bolded. Ballots will not be printed in lots.

#### **Advanced Voting**

3.6.0 The Returning Officer is authorized to designate advance voting dates, times, and the location of advance voting stations for the election as outlined in the LAEA.

### **Death of a Candidate**

3.7.0 If a candidate dies after being nominated, the Returning Officer will provide notice of the death of the candidate at a conspicuous location at the relevant voting station.

### **Blind Elector Template**

3.8.0 Blind elector templates will be available to electors.

3.8.1 Wheatland County will provide notification of the availability of blind elector templates in conjunction with the notification of the advance vote.

### **Early Count**

3.9.0 The Returning Officer is authorized to begin counting ballots from the advance vote starting at 7:30pm on election day at the counting centre.

### **4.0.0 Severability**

4.1.0 If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the bylaw is deemed valid.

### **5.0.0 Effective Date and Review**

5.1.0 This bylaw shall be reviewed prior to the next Wheatland County general election in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act* and amendments thereto.


5.2.0 This bylaw comes into force on the date it is passed.

Read a first time this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

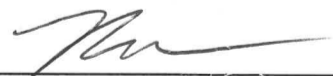
Read a second time this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

Given unanimous consent this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

Read a third time this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



Reeve Amber Link



CAO, Brian Henderson