

**DON'T
JUST
SPEAK UP,
VOTE ✓**

ELECTION 2021

**CANDIDATE
INQUIRIES**

FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR, COUNCILLOR,
PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE



elections.reddeer.ca



CANDIDATE INFORMATION REQUESTS

Election candidates (or potential candidates) frequently pose questions to either The City or the School Divisions with specific questions that may inform their campaigns or their understanding of the local jurisdiction.

The Returning Officer, to ensure equitable sharing of information to candidates, responds to all election information requests and ensures that all candidates receive the response provided. This document is updated each time a candidate inquiry is received. Responses provided relate to information that is deemed to be routinely releasable.

Information requests that relate to non-routinely releasable information or that would require more than two hours in research and response development will be forwarded to the Access & Privacy Coordinator and applicable fees for the retrieval of such information will apply. Responses handled by the Access & Privacy Coordinator will only be provided to the individual who requested the information and paid the applicable fees.

If you have specific election related questions that are not answered on the website or in this document, please email elections@reddeer.ca.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES

March 31, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

1. Can you provide the voter results from the last civic election?

Most election related information can be found at <https://elections.reddeer.ca/>. Here is the link to the results: [Election Results - Red Deer Elections](#).

2. I have received a number of inquiries about my political affiliation ... conservative, liberal, etc. I saw a candidate say they must be bipartisan or they will be disqualified from the election. Can you please clarify if this is a "rule" and if it is, where I can find the official documentation on this so I can post it on my website?

Municipal elections are typically referred to as non-partisan; meaning people do not run or serve based on specific party ideology. Your role, if elected, is to serve the best interests of the community and organization and to represent all residents regardless of political affiliation.

Criteria related to qualification to run for municipal office is found at section 21 of the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) and provisions related to disqualification are found in the [Municipal Government Act](#) in sections 174 to 179 and political affiliation is not identified.

For surety we reached out to Municipal Affairs who responded as follows:

“Thank you for visiting the Alberta Municipal Affairs website and for submitting your question regarding candidate eligibility and disqualification.

The two Acts (and their associated regulations) which legislate municipal elections in Alberta are the Local Authority Elections Act (LAEA) and the Municipal Government Act (MGA). Neither of these Acts address the issue of party affiliation in determining candidate eligibility.

We are unaware of any other legislation which limits eligibility based on party affiliation.”

3. Can you provide the most recent City budget?

The City’s Multi-year Budget including Operating Budget and Plan and Capital Budget and Plan can be found at: <https://www.reddeer.ca/city-government/multi-year-budget-and-plans/>.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

4. Are there rules on how social media can be used during a campaign? For example, can I take pictures of events and locations I'm at and post them for campaign purposes?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not speak directly to forms of advertising but outlines limitations with respect to advertising at a voting station, s. 152, and states that no one can reproduce the ballot, s. 148(5). Additionally, The City does not permit candidates to utilize The City's logo in their campaign materials.

The requirements for candidates with respect to election finances and contributions are found in s. 147 and may provide some guidance. If you choose to use advertising, you must track and report the expenditures. If for example your advertising was a gift or donation, you are required to assign a value to it and also report that value.

With respect to the question related to social media, I would suggest that candidates exercise caution in only publishing photos or other materials for which they've received explicit consent... and, if that photo or other materials was provided for a cost or a consideration – to ensure it is reported accordingly. Note that general rules of law would apply (e.g. defamation).

April 12, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

5. Can you advise where the live link for today's City Council meeting is located on the website?

You can access the live stream from the Council & Agenda page on our website at the following link <http://meeting.reddeer.ca>. The link will not appear until approximately 30 minutes before the meeting begins.

April 26, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

6. Is it ok for candidates to put posters up in businesses at this time or to leave cards for people to take away?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) only sets rules related to campaign financing and prohibiting campaigning within a voting station.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

Within our municipality rules are set out in the [Land Use Bylaw related to Election Signs](#) (more information can be found at: <https://elections.reddeer.ca/for-candidates/election-advertising-and-signs/>).

As such, candidates can choose to undertake any campaign activities other than those regulated under the Land Use Bylaw - putting up posters within a private business and leaving take away cards would be permitted at this time provided the business owner provides permission.

Please note that the campaign finance rules apply at this time.

April 29, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

7. Does the account that I open, should my donations go above 1,000.00, need to be an account dedicated and used only for the campaign funds? Also, what kind of activities can I undertake in order to raise funds? Are art sales and bake sales, or something like that, permitted? Is there a limit to what I can do to raise funds?

[Part 5.1 of the Local Authorities Election Act](#) outlines regulations for campaign contributions and expenses as well as when candidates can begin to accept contributions. As we are in an election year, only candidates who have filed their nomination papers can accept contributions during the campaign period which is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. A contribution is something that is given to a candidate to support their campaign. This can be money, letting a candidate use property to host a fundraiser, a friend providing a catering service to a candidate's fundraising event, e-transfer to a candidate, in-kind services. All of these are examples of contributions and a candidate must assign a value to them in order to issue a receipt to the contributor.

In order to contribute to a candidate who is running in an election in Alberta, the contributor must be an individual who lives in the Province of Alberta. Contributions can be from individuals or self-funded. Corporations, unincorporated organizations, employee organizations and trade unions are prohibited from making contributions. Candidates are not obligated to accept contributions. It is at the candidate's discretion whether or not they choose to accept a contribution. Having said, if a candidate does accept a contribution, they are required by the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) to provide a receipt for every contribution. There is no legislated template for the type of receipt that a candidate issues; however, the following information should be included on the receipt:

- Date
- Name of candidate or campaign



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

- Name of contributor who contributed to the candidate (remember the only contributors can be individuals residing in Alberta, contributors cannot be trade unions, corporations, charities, etc.)
- Amount of value of contribution or if the contribution was a in-kind services then a value amount must be assigned to that
- Lastly the type of contribution that it was (in-kind service, catering, etc.)

The following are the limits for contributions:

Candidates

- can self-fund up to \$10,000 during campaign period
- cannot accept anonymous contributions

Individuals contributing to a candidate

- must be eligible to make a contributions
- can support an unlimited number of candidates
- can contribute up to \$5,000 to a candidate during campaign period

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) states that a candidate must open a campaign bank account with a financial institution as soon as possible after the total amount of contributions the candidate receives exceeds \$1,000. The campaign account must be in the name of the candidate or the candidate's election campaign, if the candidate has an election campaign. This is the account where all contributions of money are deposited into. Money in the campaign account can only be used for the payment of campaign expenses and candidates are required to keep a receipt for every incurred expense.

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) (section 147.31) also outlines rules around fund-raising. A fund-raising function includes any social function held for the purpose of raising funds for the candidate's election campaign by whom or on whose behalf the function is held. The gross income from any fund-raising function must be recorded by the candidate on whose behalf the function was held. The price paid at a fund-raising function in excess of the fair market value at that time for goods or services received is considered to be a contribution to the candidate's election campaign.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

May 13, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

8. Do you have a list of any/all meetings scheduled that electoral candidates can attend?

Currently there are no scheduled meetings for electoral candidates. Election related information is posted on the elections.reddeer.ca website. We will also be posting information on election specific topics such as election signage, campaign contributions, third party advertising, etc. at a future date.

If you have specific election related questions that are not answered on the website, please email elections@reddeer.ca and we will respond.

May 20, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

9. What can we do as candidates before the official kick-off the one month campaigning? Are there any guidelines as to what we can or can't do in the months beforehand?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not speak directly to forms of advertising and campaigning guidelines; however, it does provide regulations with respect to campaign contributions and limitations on advertising at a voting station. As we are in an election year, only candidates who have filed their nomination papers can accept contributions during the campaign period which is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Within our municipality rules are set out in the [Land Use Bylaw](#) and [Community Standards Bylaw](#). As such, candidates can choose to undertake any campaign activities during the campaign period (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021) other than those regulated under the Local Authorities Election Act, Land Use Bylaw and Community Standards Bylaw – this may include putting up posters within a private business, private property, leaving take away cards, etc. provided that the business owner/property owner provide permission.

Please note that The City of Red Deer's 2021 Election branded materials, along with the City crest, coat of arms and logo, are subject to copyright and are the property of the City of Red Deer. Use of City branding on any printed, electronic or promotional materials is restricted.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

August 23, 2021 Update on Election Signs

It has been policy in previous years, based on The City's Land Use Bylaw, that election signs could be installed on both public and private lands as of Nomination Day, and remain in place up to 48 hours following Election Day. Following changes to the Local Authorities Election Act, and feedback received from candidates, The City will be adjusting these timelines to allow for signs to be installed on private lands starting September 1. The date for installation on public lands will continue to be Nomination Day (September 20).

The federal election has been called for September 20, and with that, federal election candidates are permitted to place election signs on private and public property. Those signs are required to be removed within 48 hours of the federal election, meaning federal and municipal election signs will be sharing public spaces for a 48 hour timeframe.

May 20, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

10. I just learned about the "Built for Zero" initiative today. Are there any committees or volunteer work you need done with regards to this initiative to end homelessness. I'd like to help if I can!

Built for Zero – Canada is a change effort and consists of 39 communities across Canada who are making purposeful shifts to end chronic and veteran homelessness. Built for Zero – Canada uses a structured, supportive and data-driven approach that focuses on creating a sense of urgency, optimizing local homelessness response systems, accelerate the adoption of proven practices, and drive continuous improvement.

This video helps describe what ending chronic homelessness, inflow, outflow and a by-names list are, and why they're so important:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=befzXb_YIMA&t=66s

If you would like to stay apprised of Red Deer's community progress, it can be found here:

<https://bfzcanada.ca/community-progress/>

From a City perspective, volunteer opportunities are related to the [Community Housing Advisory Board](#). At this time there are no vacancies.

Other volunteer opportunities may exist with one of the several funded agencies doing this important work in the community. A list of funded agencies can be found on [our Housing and Homelessness section](#) of The City's website.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

June 1, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

I 1. I noted from your email that you said that there would be NO edits [to the candidate profile] once they are posted. However, I was wondering if you would re-consider the "policy" as it does seem rather inflexible and unforgiving. The online form that we filled in didn't allow me, at least on my laptop, to see the entire box of text and it was a bit challenging to not see the complete sentences when editing. I was wondering if the policy could be amended to allow up to 2 edits once they are posted?

When sharing information about the opportunity to submit candidate profiles (biographies), we did encourage candidates to ensure their profile was a final version as they would not have access to edit their profile once it was submitted. This was not intended to illustrate that edits would not be possible but to note that due to technical limitations, candidates would not be able to access their profile to make changes.

Our web team can make minor changes to profiles which have been submitted, within reason. Appropriate changes can be made upon request; however, the timeline for these changes may vary dependant on staff capacity and may not fall within the two business days as promised for initial profile publishing. We would ask that candidates limit any changes to their profiles to respect City staffing resources.

June 7, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

I 2. I was recently informed by a former City Government elected official that we are able to receive a tour of City facilities. This would be a great help as a candidate in this upcoming election. I am requesting a tour of the Civic Yards, Wastewater Treatment plant, and the Airport. Is there someone specific with each location that I should contact or is that coordinated with the Communications department as was suggested to me?

Unfortunately we are not able to offer tours of City facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic poses challenges as many facilities remain closed and staff are currently working from home. Information about public City facilities is available on our website, including [recreation facilities](#) and [culture facilities](#). We also have information about our [water treatment and wastewater treatment processes](#) online.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

The Red Deer Regional Airport is not a City facility. If interested, you can connect with Airport staff to request a tour or learn more information. Their contact information is available on their website at www.flyreddeer.com.

June 13, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

13. I am wanting to do a live event (in person) where people can come and meet me as well as talk about my platform. What we are wanting to know is do I need a permit to use a public park to hold a live campaign event?

There are many facility and park rental opportunities with The City of Red Deer. Please visit the [Facility and Parks Rental](#) page for more information. Additionally, if you are thinking about hosting a special event in a City-owned facility or park, please visit the [MyEvent web page](#). The MyEvent portal will help direct you to the tools you need including facility rentals, special events permits, etc.

June 30, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

14. I was hoping that there might be a voters list available, or if the council is planning on releasing one.

It is optional for an elected authority to prepare a list of voters under the [Local Authorities Election Act](#). The City of Red Deer did not pass a bylaw to prepare a list of electors who are entitled to vote in an election, and so does not have a voter list available to share with candidates.

July 23, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

15. [What] if I have sponsors donating signs to my campaign not money?

A sponsor donating signs to a candidate's campaign instead of money is also a contribution to a candidate's campaign. Regulations around contributions are outlined in [Part 5.1 of the Local Authorities Election Act](#). In April, we received a similar inquiry around campaign contributions and fundraising. The response can be found in this [Candidate Inquiries document \(inquiry #7\)](#).



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

July 24, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

I 6. I was asked a question by citizen who lives near the new pedestrian signal at [traffic signal removed at 69 Street Drive and 59 Avenue]. Can you please explain to us why the traffic signal was removed?

[Candidate provided citizen's comments which included concerns for safety, removal of the pedestrian crossing signal and motorists speeding.]

The City of Red Deer is not removing the existing pedestrian crossing signal at the intersection of 69 Street Drive and 59 Avenue. However, the existing pedestrian crossing signal is to be replaced with a Rectangular Rapid Flasher Beacon (RRFB). The RRFB is effective and efficient in residential neighborhood. Further RRFB will aesthetically look better. Besides to address the speed concern, we are improving the geometry of the intersection by adding a 'smart right turn channel' which will reduce the speed of turning vehicles.

To provide sufficient warning for motorists to stop, pedestrian crossing signals require a certain minimum time to react. Studies have shown that few pedestrians would wait for more than 30 to 60 seconds to cross unless traffic is congested and pedestrians would cross before the pushbutton signal gave them the right of way. The result is traffic being stopped by the red light, long after the pedestrians have cleared. This increases motorists' disrespect and red light violations, which contributes to an increased safety concern. A high-visibility strobe-like warning light is used in RRFB and light can be activated immediately with pushbuttons. Pedestrians can cross the street immediately without waiting a minimum time to react like-pedestrian crossing signals. Based on those information, the existing pedestrian crossing signal has been decided to be replaced with RRFB.

July 26, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

[Question has been simplified to protect individual's campaign strategy.]

I 7. Are we able to give out a prize or is that against any specific rule?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not speak directly to forms of advertising and campaigning guidelines; however, it does provide regulations with respect to campaign contributions, expenses and limitations on advertising at a voting station.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

When undertaking any campaigning activities, candidates need to be familiar with [Part 5.1 of the Local Authorities Election Act](#) which outlines regulations for campaign contributions and expenses. While the Local Authorities Election Act does not specifically provide examples on your specific inquiry, it does define what a campaign expense is and the prize would need to be disclosed as a campaign expense.

July 27, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

[Question has been simplified to protect individual's campaign strategy.]

18. I have people offering to donate signs. How do I go about that? If [the] donations go directly toward to the sign company and the signs are just donate it to me by those people?

A contribution is something that is given to a candidate to support their campaign. This can be money, signs, letting a candidate use property to host a fundraiser, a friend providing a catering service to a candidate's fundraising event, e-transfer to a candidate, in-kind services. All of these are examples of contributions and a candidate must assign a value to them in order to issue a receipt to the contributor. A person or sponsor donating signs to a candidate's campaign instead of money is a contribution to a candidate's campaign. There is a cost to produce the signs. The candidate needs to assign the value to those signs and this value is considered the contribution to the candidate's campaign and must be disclosed in the [candidate's financials](#).

It is at the candidate's discretion whether or not they choose to accept a contribution. Having said that, if a candidate does accept a contribution, they are required by the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) to provide a receipt for every contribution. There is no legislated template for the type of receipt that a candidate issues; however, the following information should be included on the receipt:

- Date
- Name of candidate or campaign
- Name of contributor who contributed to the candidate (remember the only contributors can be individuals residing in Alberta, contributors cannot be trade unions, corporations, charities, etc.)
- Amount of value of contribution or if the contribution was a in-kind services then a value amount must be assigned to that
- Lastly the type of contribution that it was (in-kind service, catering, signs, etc.)



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

August 9, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

19. Are we allowed to put up signs?

In May, we received a similar inquiry around campaigning. The response can be found in the [Candidate Inquiries document \(inquiry #9\)](#).

For convenience, below is the section that responds to this inquiry:

“Within our municipality rules are set out in the Land Use Bylaw and Community Standards Bylaw. As such, candidates can choose to undertake any campaign activities during the campaign period (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021) other than those regulated under the [Local Authorities Election Act](#), [Land Use Bylaw](#) and [Community Standards Bylaw](#) – this may include putting up posters within a private business, private property, leaving take away cards, etc. provided that the business owner/property owner provide permission.”

Additional information on election advertising and signs can be found:

- Elections.reddeer.ca
- [Information for Candidates Handbook](#)

August 23, 2021 Update for Election Signs

It has been policy in previous years, based on The City’s Land Use Bylaw, that election signs could be installed on both public and private lands as of Nomination Day, and remain in place up to 48 hours following Election Day. Following changes to the Local Authorities Election Act, and feedback received from candidates, The City will be adjusting these timelines to allow for signs to be installed on private lands starting September 1. The date for installation on public lands will continue to be Nomination Day (September 20).

The federal election has been called for September 20, and with that, federal election candidates are permitted to place election signs on private and public property. Those signs are required to be removed within 48 hours of the federal election, meaning federal and municipal election signs will be sharing public spaces for a 48 hour timeframe.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

August 17, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

20. As per the Election Sign Placement Guide, we are permitted to put up signage in designated locations as of 12:01 AM on September 20th. However, Federal election signs will likely still be up on the 20th if they are not required to be taken down for 48 hours at the close of the polls. This could potentially affect the practice of municipal candidates erecting signs shortly after midnight the night before if federal signs are still erected in those same locations until the 21st, or even later. Please advise if there will be any changes to the Election Sign Placement guidelines for the 2021 Municipal Election as a result of this issue, or if the federal election signs will be permitted in different zones versus the municipal election signs?

No changes to the Election Sign Placement Guidelines for placement of campaign signs on municipal land are anticipated for the 2021 Municipal Election. Federal and municipal election signs will only be permitted in the locations shown in the Guidelines. Because of the overlap of the elections, it is possible that approved sign locations will be occupied by federal election signs on Nomination Day for the municipal election. Federal candidates will have 48 hours from the close of the federal polls to remove their election signs. You may choose to wait to place your election sign until after federal election signs have been removed. No one is permitted to remove anyone else's signs without authorization.

August 20, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

21. Please clarify if we need to take down any signs that have been already placed at people's homes. And clarify the consequences if we do not take them down.

The official date for election signs to be placed on private property is September 1, 2021 in order to create a level playing field for the candidates who were following our historic practices and were not planning on installing signs prior to September 20, 2021.

The City of Red Deer will not be sending enforcement to locate signs and open enforcement files between now and September 1, 2021, unless a complaint has been, or is, received. If a complaint is received, The City of Red Deer will send enforcement to locate the signs and open an enforcement file. Enforcement would work with the candidate and would request that the signs be removed until September 1, 2021 for compliance. If enforcement had to issue a fine, the fine is \$250 for the first offence. Fines can be found in [Part Nine of the Land Use Bylaw under Offences and Penalties](#).



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

August 27, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

22. A citizen has stopped by my booth at the market a couple of times inquiring as to whether or not we are allowed to have clotheslines in Red Deer?

As there is no bylaw prohibiting them, yes, Red Deer residents are allowed to have clotheslines.

August 29, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

23. How do I report when people donate?

All candidates (Mayor, Councillor, School Trustees) are responsible for reviewing the relevant sections of the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) to ensure they are compliant with all requirements. Part 5.1 Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure of the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) outlines the requirements for contributions, limitations and acceptance of contributions, anonymous and unauthorized contributions, duties of candidates, fund-raising functions, expense limits, disclosure statements, campaign surplus, late filing, offences.

Candidates must declare, by March 1, 2022, their campaign contributions and expenses and the resulting surplus or deficit on [FORM 26 - Campaign Disclosure Statement and Financial Statement \(pdf\)](#).

August 30, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

24. I would like to watch a Council meeting in the next two weeks to get an idea how they are run and what kind of areas are discussed? Via video if possible? Is this still an option?

In April, we received a similar inquiry. The response can be found in the [Candidate Inquiries document \(inquiry #5\)](#). For your convenience, below is the response provided at that time:

“You can access the live stream from the Council & Agenda page on our website at the following link <http://meeting.reddeer.ca>. The link will not appear until approximately 30 minutes before the meeting begins.”

Previous Council meetings can be viewed by selecting the “View Video” link on the Meetings & Agendas page (<http://meeting.reddeer.ca>).



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

September 13, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

25. [Seeking information on] voting opportunities for residents and which voting station they can vote at, voting station map as well as voter turnout from previous election.

VOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS

Voting opportunities are available on the elections.reddeer.ca and can be found here: [How Can I Vote?](#) For ease of reference, this information is included below:

Advance Vote

Advance voting for Mayor, Councillors and School Trustees will be held starting October 4 until October 16, 2021. Eligible voters can vote at any one of the following three voting stations during the hours of 10 am to 8 pm:

- **Parkland Mall** - Unit 458: 6359 50 Avenue
- **Baymont by Wyndham Red Deer** - Piper Creek Room: 4311 49 Avenue
- **Westerner Park** - Marquis Room at Harvest Centre: 4847A 19 Street

Election Day

Voting stations are open from 10 am until 8 pm on Election Day (Monday, October 18, 2021). Eligible voters can vote at any one of the following eight voting stations:

- **Northside Community Centre (YMCA)** - Gymnasium: 6391 76 Street
- **Radisson Hotel Red Deer** - Winspear Ballroom: 6500 67 Street
- **Parkland Mall** - Unit 458: 6359 50 Avenue
- **St. Joseph High School** - Gymnasium: 110, 2700 67 Street
- **Baymont by Wyndham Red Deer** - Piper Creek Room: 4311 49 Avenue
- **Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre** - Mediterranean Ballroom: 3310 50 Avenue
- **Collicutt Centre** - Field House: 3031 30 Avenue
- **Westerner Park** - Marquis Room at Harvest Centre: 4847A 19 Street

For more information on additional voting opportunities (e.g. special ballot) please visit elections.reddeer.ca.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

VOTING STATION MAP

A map of the above voting stations is available on the elections.reddeer.ca website and can be found here: [2021 Election Voting Station Map](#).

Please note that The City of Red Deer's 2021 Election branded materials are subject to copyright and are the property of The City of Red Deer. Use of City branding on any printed, electronic or promotional materials is restricted.

2017 OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Statement of Official Results from the 2017 Election is available on the elections.reddeer.ca and can be found here: [2017 Election – Official Statement of Results](#).

September 10, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

26. I remember seeing that there was an election office info session set up for candidates. I thought it was on September 20th but I also saw something for the 28th. Can you please confirm the day and time for this meeting?

The elections.reddeer.ca website did advertise that the Returning Officer would host a session for all election candidates following nomination day (September 20, 2021). In past elections, this session predominantly focused on informing candidates of the election process, discussed election sign locations and answered any questions candidates may have. Due to recent health restrictions and ongoing pandemic, The City of Red Deer will not be hosting this information session. Election related information for voters and candidates can be found on elections.reddeer.ca. For any specific questions that are not answered on the website, candidates can email elections@reddeer.ca.

September 15, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

27. [I am] considering [appointing an] Official Agent for [my] campaign. How would that amendment be made?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not permit changes to a nomination form once it is filed, unless formally withdrawn within the nomination period. However, the Act does permit that a candidate may change their official agent throughout their campaign term with no implications to their filed nomination form. The Act states that if it becomes necessary to appoint a new official



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

agent, the candidate shall immediately notify the Returning Officer in writing of the contact information of the new official agent.

In order to update an official agent, a candidate must notify the Returning Officer in writing to elections@reddeer.ca with the following information:

- Official Agent's First and Last Name
- Address (Street, City, Province, Postal Code)
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Once elections@reddeer.ca receives the official agent information, the official agent will be included on all future correspondence that is sent to candidates.

September 15, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

28. Can a candidate also work as election staff?

As candidates are directly involved in their own personal campaigns, this may put them in a direct conflict of interest with their role and responsibility in ensuring a fair, impartial election process. For municipal employees, the [Local Authorities Election Act](#) states that employees must notify their employer on or after July 1, 2021, but before their last working day (which must be prior to nomination day, September 20, 2021), that the employee will be taking a leave of absence without pay (section 22(5) of the [Local Authorities Election Act](#)). If the employee is not elected, they will be able to return to work on the 5th day after the election.

We also have additional policies for our staff to ensure that they balance their responsibility as a City employee and their rights as a resident. Election workers who work in the municipal election are employees of The City, even though the employment is temporary. As such, we would not allow candidates to work as election workers in our election.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

September 16, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

29. [There] has been some communication about vote splitting for this election. I was wondering what type of voting/counting is employed in this election (ie. Hare System, Peoria model, Choice Voting, etc.). Although I assume that one checkmark is one vote cast, I am aware of systems where 1 check cast out of 8 could equate to 8 votes for one candidate. I'd hate to be ignorant of this and would like to be able to inform people properly.

The electoral system used in Alberta's Municipal Elections is a plurality system which means that the candidate(s) who get more votes than any other is elected. In the Councillor election and school board wards where multiple candidates will be elected, electors can cast their vote for up to the maximum number of candidates. Voters can only attribute one vote to a candidate.

We are aware of some candidates making comments about vote splitting. As The City of Red Deer is responsible for the conduct of a fair and impartial election we do not make comments regarding vote splitting or strategic voting.

September 21, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

30. Is linking to the Elections Red Deer site okay?

Candidates may link voters to the elections.reddeer.ca website as an official source of information about the Election. The Elections website has the most up to date information about voter eligibility, voting opportunities, and the list of forums hosted by community groups.

Candidates may not utilize the City of Red Deer's 2021 Election branded materials, The City crest, coat of arms or The City of Red Deer logo in their campaigning, as these items are the property of The City of Red Deer and are subject to copyright.

September 21, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

31. Is there a size limit on signs outside of City limits (e.g. highway)?

The [Election Sign Placement Guide](#) outlines a number of designated locations on municipal land where signs can be placed and these rules only apply within the city of Red Deer's boundaries.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

For the placement of election signs within Provincial Highway's rights-of-ways, visit [Alberta Transportation's election sign guidelines](#).

September 20, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

32. Is there a deadline for candidates to submit a profile to the [elections.reddeer.ca](#) website? And, once a profile is published on the website, can it be edited to add, say a website at a later date for example?

There is no deadline for a candidate to submit a profile to the [elections.reddeer.ca](#) website. Once a profile is published to the website, our web team can make minor changes to profiles which have been submitted, within reason. Appropriate changes can be made upon request to elections@reddeer.ca; however, the timeline for these changes may vary dependant on staff capacity and may not fall within the two business days as promised for initial profile publishing. We would ask that candidates limit changes to their profiles to respect City staffing resources.

September 22, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

33. Some candidates are telling people not to vote for all 8 candidates they are allowed too. Is that against the rules?

[Section 45 of Local Authorities Election Act](#) and [Local Authorities Election Forms Regulation 106/2007](#) provide instructions for voters. The ballot, on which the names of the candidates are listed, indicates the maximum number of candidates that can be voted for. A voter may vote for less than the maximum number of candidates required to fill the positions, but not for more. It is at the voter's discretion how many candidates they choose to vote for. For example, there are eight (8) available positions for City Councillor, a voter may choose to only vote for five (5) candidates rather than the maximum number of eight (8).

We are aware of some candidates making comments about vote splitting. As The City of Red Deer is responsible for the conduct of a fair and impartial election we do not make comments regarding vote splitting or strategic voting.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

September 22, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

34. Is there a way to continue using the city logo on election signs that are already printed?

Candidates cannot utilize the City of Red Deer's 2021 Election branded materials, The City crest, coat of arms or The City of Red Deer logo in their campaigning (including already printed materials) as these items are the property of The City of Red Deer and are subject to copyright. Candidates should immediately cease using any materials with these graphics incorporated, whether digital or printed materials.

September 23, 2021 – Candidate Inquiry

35. Is there anything prohibiting candidates from purchasing bus bench signage or utilizing billboard advertising via the Westerner Park signage board on 19th Street?

Within the city of Red Deer, candidates can choose to undertake any campaign activities during the campaign period (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021) other than those regulated under the [Local Authorities Election Act](#), [Land Use Bylaw](#) and [Community Standards Bylaw](#).

Other than the regulations outlined in these three resources, it is at the candidate's discretion on how they wish to campaign. This may include putting up posters within a private business, private property, leaving take away cards, purchasing bus bench signage or utilizing billboard advertising etc. provided that the business owner/property owner provide permission.

Please note that The City of Red Deer's 2021 Election branded materials, along with the City crest, coat of arms and logo, are subject to copyright and are the property of the City of Red Deer. Use of City branding on any printed, electronic or promotional materials is restricted.

September 23, 2021 – Candidate Inquiry

36. With all of the polling stations being 'vote anywhere' polling stations, what safe guards are in place to make sure someone doesn't vote at one polling station and then drive to the next one to vote again?



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

When an elector arrives to a voting station, before they are issued a ballot, they are required to complete the legislated form on which they make a statement declaring their eligibility to vote. The legislated form includes the statement “I have not voted before in this election”. A person who makes and signs a false statement is guilty of an offence and is liable to imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to \$10,000, or to both a fine and imprisonment.

September 24, 2021 – Candidate Inquiry

37. [I have a] question regarding sign placement based on 11.1 7.3 election sign development standards 1(d) - Based on the maps we’ve been given for the locations, some have multiple areas in which signs can be erected. I’m just looking for clarification on whether it is one per location or one per available location? For example location 25 has four areas in which signs can be erected. Am I able to put up 4 signs, or 1?

It is one sign per designated location. If there are multiple areas or the location spans quite a long way for the designated location, the candidate will need to decide where in that designated location they would like their one sign to be placed.

September 24, 2021 – Candidate Inquiry

38. Who will you recommend to give me some insight into issues around city land zoning, construction, land development and real estate? I’m trying to learn a few things towards next elections forum; I feel some of my fellow-candidates can learn from such a session as well.

Every municipality in Alberta is required to have a [Land Use Bylaw](#) as per the requirements outlined in the [Municipal Government Act](#). The Land Use Bylaw establishes rules and regulations for land development as well as the process of making decisions for development permit applications within the City of Red Deer. Land Use Bylaw provides direction on the applicable rules and regulations that a person needs to consider if they are planning to construct a building, start a business, erect a sign, etc. The Land Use Bylaw ensures orderly development within the City of Red Deer and applies to any zoned piece of land, including private property.

In addition, [The City of Red Deer’s website](#) offers information on Red Deer’s investment opportunity, Red Deer land, economic development and development of properties.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

We are happy to provide general information; however, The City does not provide education sessions to candidates on these topics. For specific questions with respect to issues around city land zoning, constructions, land development and real estate, please forward these inquiries to elections@reddeer.ca.

September 25, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

39. By my reading of the information there is advance voting every single day for almost two weeks. I am wondering if that is correct. Could I please have the advanced voting dates listed?

This is not an error, advance vote will run for 13 days. We added more advanced vote dates and locations to reduce the number of people at the voting stations on Election Day. We will have three advance vote stations which will be open October 4 to 16, from 10 am to 8 pm. Voters can attend any one of three advance vote locations:

- Parkland Mall: 6359 50 Avenue
- Baymont by Wyndham Red Deer: 4311 49 Avenue
- Westerner Park: 4847A 19 Street

Voting information is also available on the elections.reddeer.ca and can be found here: [How Can I Vote?](#)

September 27, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

40. Can I place election flyers on car windshields?

In the City of Red Deer, the flyers, placards and posters are addressed in the [Community Standards Bylaw 3669/2021](#). Section 48 states that:

“No person shall place, deposit or throw or cause to be placed, deposited or thrown upon or into any motor vehicle, which is parked on any street, lane, parking lot or other Public Place, any leaflet, pamphlet, poster, handbill, flyer or any paper containing printed or written matter, whether advertising or not, with the exception of any violation ticket or summons issued pursuant to lawful authority.”

For Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division trustee candidates, please note that each municipality in the Red Deer Area Ward, QEII Ward and HWY111 Ward may have a bylaw in place that addresses whether flyers are permitted on vehicles. It is recommended that candidates



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

check with each municipality what regulations may be in place for flyers being placed on car windshields.

September 28, 2021 Candidate Inquiry (Red Deer Public School Division only)

41.[For the Election Forum for Public School Board Trustee Candidates], do the health measures include proof of vaccination?

The Red Deer Public School Division does not require proof of vaccination.

September 30, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

42. Can we resubmit our budget form?

[Part 5.1 of the Local Authorities Election Act](#) outlines regulations for campaign contributions and expenses.

A contribution is something that is given to a candidate to support their campaign. This can be money, signs, letting a candidate use property to host a fundraiser, a friend providing a catering service to a candidate's fundraising event, e-transfer to a candidate, in-kind services. All of these are examples of contributions and a candidate must assign a value to them in order to issue a receipt to the contributor. A person or sponsor donating signs to a candidate's campaign instead of money is a contribution to a candidate's campaign. There is a cost to produce the signs. The candidate needs to assign the value to those signs. The assigned value is considered a contribution to the candidate's campaign and it must be disclosed in the candidate's financials.

It is at the candidate's discretion whether or not they choose to accept a contribution. Having said that, if a candidate does accept a contribution, they are required by the Local Authorities Election Act to provide a receipt for every contribution. There is no legislated template for the type of receipt that a candidate issues; however, the following information should be included on the receipt:

- Date
- Name of candidate or campaign
- Name of contributor who contributed to the candidate (remember the only contributors can be individuals residing in Alberta, contributors cannot be trade unions, corporations, charities, etc.)
- Amount of value of contribution or if the contribution was an in-kind service then a value amount must be assigned to that



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

- Lastly the type of contribution that it was (in-kind service, catering, signs, etc.)

The campaign period is from January 1 until December 31, 2021; therefore, a candidate may update their Form 5 – Candidate Financial Information at any time during the campaign period.

October 1, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

43. After receiving your VOTE LOCAL information brochure in the mail today, I am noticing that in addition to the advance voting stations, there are only 8 voting stations available on Election Day. Is this considerably lower than the number of voting stations available in previous elections? If stations become very busy, what is your plan for dealing with long wait times or capacity issues?

You are correct, there are less voting stations open on Election Day for the 2021 Election than there were in the 2017 Election, however, with increased Advance Vote dates and locations, Red Deer voters will actually have more opportunities to cast their ballot.

In 2017, voters could vote at the Advance Vote station on one of five days, or at their dedicated voting station on Election Day. This offered six opportunities to vote, and voting stations were in smaller facilities, often connected to other community amenities such as schools and community centres.

In planning for a pandemic election, we made some significant changes to ensure the safety of voters and staff while also offering voters more opportunities to vote. In this Election, voters can vote at one of three Advance Vote stations, which are open for 13 days each, a total of 39 voting opportunities, in addition to on Election Day where they can choose to vote at any one of eight voting stations; in total this is 47 opportunities to cast their vote.

For this Election, voting stations were moved to larger facilities to ensure voting stations would have proper distancing measures and protective barriers in place as needed. While there are fewer voting stations on Election Day, the larger voting stations allow us to accommodate more voting screens and additional staff to support Election operations (we are actually anticipating slightly more staff in 2021 than 2017). We are confident the additional staffing and voting opportunities will allow us to manage any increases in voter turnout, as well as the increased time it will take for voters to vote with Senate and referendum questions added to the ballot.

To help voters in selecting the best time and place to cast their vote, we have added a voting station map to our website which includes live wait times for each location. Information is updated



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

regularly throughout the day during the Advance Vote days as well as on Election Day, allowing Red Deer voters to make an informed choice about where they would like to cast their vote. The voting station map can be found at: <https://elections.reddeer.ca/for-voters/findmystation/>.

In addition to larger voting stations and additional voting opportunities, we have a number of measures in place to ensure the health and safety of voters and staff. You can read about our COVID-19 safety measures on the Elections website here: <https://elections.reddeer.ca/election-information/covid-19-safety/>.

October 8, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

44. Would you be able to use the Westerner signage given it is a polling station?

Westerner Park (4847A 19 St) is currently being used as a voting station for Advance Vote and Election Day. The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) addresses campaign activities and advertisements at voting stations and states that a person who, at an advance vote or on Election Day:

- (a) displays within a building used for a voting station or within the boundaries of the land on which a building used for a voting station is located, or
- (b) distributes within a building used for a voting station or within the boundaries of the land on which the building used for a voting station is located

an advertisement, handbill, placard, poster, circular, pamphlet, newspaper or other paper except those posted by the deputy in accordance with this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$500.

October 12, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

(Candidate submitted an image of a news article from westernstandardonline.com which reported a voter being turned away at a voting station because the voter was unvaccinated).

45. Will this be an issue in Red Deer on election night? Do the buildings that the voting stations are in have [proof of vaccination requirements]?

In compliance with [Provincial regulations](#), the new public health actions in which facilities have chosen to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program will not impact the voting process for election. There is a section on the [Government of Alberta's website](#) that specifically addresses elections. Currently, if a voting station is located in a facility where the facility has chosen to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program, proof of vaccination is not required to vote in



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

Red Deer. Safety measures will be in place to ensure the safety of voters and staff, in compliance with Provincial regulations.

October 10, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

(To best answer the candidate inquiry, the questions were separated into two components, please see below.)

46. Candidate Inquiry Part 1: For a voter who owns property in two or more municipalities of the same province, where are they supposed to vote? Especially if they claim to live in both places while commuting for work. We assume the voter gets one vote, in one location only?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) outlines the rules of place of residence. The Act states that:

- (a) a person may be a resident of only one place at a time for the purposes of voting under the Local Authorities Election Act;
- (a.1) if a person has more than one residence in Alberta, then that person must designate one place of residence as the person's place of residence for the purposes under the Local Authorities Election Act;
- (b) the residence of a person is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent, the person intends to return;
- (c) a person does not lose the person's residence by leaving the person's home for a temporary purpose.

A person shall designate the person's place of residence in accordance with the following factors in the following order of priority:

- (a) the address shown on the person's driver's licence or motor vehicle operator's licence issued by or on behalf of the Government of Alberta or an identification card issued by or on behalf of the Government of Alberta;
- (b) the address to which the person's income tax correspondence is addressed and delivered;
- (c) the address to which the person's mail is addressed and delivered.

46. Candidate Inquiry Part 2: How is this monitored and enforced?

When an elector arrives to a voting station, before they are issued a ballot, they are required to complete the legislated form on which they make a statement declaring their eligibility to vote. The legislated form includes the statement "I have not voted before in this election". A person



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

who makes and signs a false statement is guilty of an offence and is liable to imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to \$10,000, or to both a fine and imprisonment.

October 12, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

47. Can you please remind me where I might be able to see the results on election night [October 18, 2021]?

Election results will be displayed on the elections.reddeer.ca shortly after 8:00 pm.

October 12, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

48. Is there a transitional period after the election for those that are elected? What I mean by that is, for those of us that are full time employed right now, will we be expected to start immediately after the election or will there be a period of time in which we will make the transition?

The City of Red Deer

Following October 18th election, elected candidates (Mayor and Councillors) are expected to start right away as they are scheduled in a series of orientation training as required by the [Municipal Government Act](#). Elected candidates are sworn-in into their roles as members of Council on Monday, October 25, 2021 which includes other obligations as well. Following the swearing in ceremony, Council will be engaged in a series of training sessions, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- role of municipalities in Alberta;
- municipal organization and functions;
- key municipal plans, policies and projects;
- roles and responsibilities of council and councillors;
- the municipality's code of conduct;
- roles and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer and staff;
- budgeting and financial administration;
- public participation; etc.

In addition to the above, elected officials will be attending an organizational meeting that is scheduled on November 1, 2021.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division

The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division currently has 4 trustees that continue to work full/part-time positions outside of their duties as a trustee.

The Board of Trustees currently meets once a month with possible special meetings. Regularly scheduled monthly meetings commence at 3:30 pm. There may be committee work and other meetings during the day but not substantial. Current trustees take vacation time from their regular full/part-time positions in order to fulfill these commitments.

Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division will hold an orientation day for Board of Trustees within a month after the election.

Red Deer Public School Division

Red Deer Public School Division currently has 4 trustees that continue to work full/part-time outside of their duties as a trustee.

The Board of Trustees currently meets once a month with possible special meetings. Regularly scheduled monthly meetings commence at 12:00 pm and last all afternoon. There may be some committee work and other meetings during the day but not substantial. Current trustees take vacation time from their regular full/part-time positions in order to fulfill these commitments.

The Red Deer Public School Division currently has an all day Board of Trustees orientation meeting planned for October 27, 2021.

October 14, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

49. Can a permanent resident residing in Alberta contribute (financially or in-kind) to a candidate in this election?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not address whether a permanent resident residing in Alberta can or cannot make a contribution to a candidate's campaign. The Act is fairly broad in stating that "only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate." We reached out to Municipal Affairs as well on this inquiry and they did not provide any additional information that would provide reason to believe that a permanent resident residing in Alberta is not able to make a contribution.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

October 16, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

50. As I understand the new Council will meet within the next two weeks. How can the new Council make sure the temporary shelter is not closed? Can Council itself declare a State of emergency?

The City of Red Deer declared a State of Local Emergency on September 17, 2021 which will be in place up to 60 days. The State of Local Emergency can be ended or extended by the Emergency Advisory Committee which is made up of the Mayor and two Councillors. Members will be appointed to this Committee at Council's Organizational Meeting on November 1st.

Council can consider the zoning of the temporary shelter, if it so chooses, at an upcoming meeting where they could reconsider the zoning of the property.

October 16, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

(To best answer the candidate inquiry, the questions were separated into two components, please see below.)

51. Candidate Inquiry Part 1: What is the estimated cost of the second code of conduct enquiry and paid to date.

The estimated costs to date are \$107,000.

Further information is not considered routinely releasable. For information that is not routinely released you can contact FOIP@reddeer.ca and put forward a request. Applicable fees for the retrieval of such information will apply. Responses handled by the Access & Privacy Coordinator will only be provided to the individual who requested the information and paid the applicable fees.

51. Candidate Inquiry Part 2: Does the new Council get a copy of the report upon election?

At the current time the matter is closed and was considered in camera so it is protected under the FOIP Act. If there was a reason for the item to be reopened, the disclosure of information would be considered at that time.



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

Please note that in accordance with City policy, the response to any municipal election candidate's (agent/representative) request for information is provided to all candidates.

October 16, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

52. In the forwarded email providing information about the official count happening at city hall, how will the ballots be transported to city hall? How are early voter ballots currently being stored, and who is in charge of enforcing the election safety standards? Is it a single person at each station who confirms the ballots are locked away and untouched, or is there one person who goes to each station every day?

Following the close of voting stations, ballots from Advance Vote and Election Day are placed into a transfer case at the voting station in the presence of multiple election staff members and the transfer case is sealed with a combination of zip ties and duct tape. A seal with the name of the voting station, date and two election workers signatures is placed on the transfer case and the duct tape is initialed by two election workers. The seals and duct tape are applied in such a way that if they were removed it would be evident that the transfer case had been opened or tampered with. The sealed ballot transfer case is transported to City Hall at the end of each Advance Vote day and at end of Election Day. The sealed transfer case is then stored in a secured area.

Election safety standards are ultimately the responsibility of the Returning Officer but supported by The City's Health and Safety Department as well as the onsite supervisors within each voting station. Election Workers are provided with a health and safety orientation as part of their training.

October 17, 2021 Candidate Inquiry

53. Is campaigning such as "sign waving" allowed on Elections Day?

The [Local Authorities Election Act](#) does not speak directly to forms of advertising and campaigning guidelines. Within the city of Red Deer, candidates can choose to undertake any campaign activities during the campaign period (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021) other than those regulated under the Local Authorities Election Act, [Land Use Bylaw](#) and [Community Standards Bylaw](#). Other than the regulations outlined in these three resources, it is at the candidate's discretion on how they wish to campaign - this may include sign waving, leaving take



CANDIDATE INQUIRIES CONTINUED...

away cards at businesses, utilizing billboard advertising etc. provided that the business owner/property owner provide permission.