

Information Bulletin from the Returning Officer
Changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act*

On December 5, 2018 the Legislative Assembly of Alberta gave third reading to *Bill 23: An Act to Renew Local Democracy in Alberta*. The bill received Royal Assent on December 11, 2018. Bill 23 makes several changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* and will impact municipal and school board elections in Alberta. Legislative and Legal Services has reviewed the legislation, and will be updating its election processes accordingly.

Bill 23 makes significant changes to the laws regarding campaign contributions, disclosure, and third-party advertising. The changes include, but are not limited to:

- banning corporate and union donations
- reducing the length of the campaign period from the current four years, to one year
- setting a cap on donations for both municipal and school board campaigns
- requiring third-party advertisers to register in the jurisdiction in which they intend to advertise
- requiring disclosure statements from all candidates, including those self-funding their campaign

Any campaign finance requirements in the legislation will be applied from the date the Act received first reading – November 5, 2018. Any candidate who has raised funds after this date is required to adhere to the new legislation. Candidates who have already filed a Notice of Intent, or plan to, should make themselves aware of the new rules and how they may be impacted. The bulk of the Act comes into force on January 1, 2019. The Legislation can be found [here](#) for review.

The new rules brought in by Bill 23 will be in effect for Strathcona County's next municipal and school board elections in 2021. The Legislative and Legal Services department is available to answer any questions about the new legislation. Questions can also be directed to the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Municipal Affairs (780-417-2225).