

**MEETING TYPE:** Regular Council Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:**  
**AUTHOR:** Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services  
**DEPARTMENT:** Corporate Services  
**ITEM TITLE:** ELC2022-001 2022 General Local Election  
**DESCRIPTION:** To provide a summary of the 2022 General Local Election and Referendum

## QUESTION

Section 158 of the *Local Government Act* requires the Chief Election Officer to submit a report summarizing the election results within thirty days of the declaration of official election results; October 19, 2022. In the case of an election by voting, the report must include a compilation of the information on the ballot accounts for the election.

## OPTIONS

For Information

## VOTER TURNOUT

The following table sets out voter turnout for comparison purposes.

Election	# of Voters	Estimated Eligible Voters	Voter Turnout
2022 General Election & Waterfront Referendum	2020	12,767	16%
2018 General Election & Fire Hall Referendum	2791	10,550	26%
2015 Rail Trail Referendum	4462	9315	48%
2014 General Election	2223	9315	24%
2011 General Election	2430	9135	30%
2008 General Election & Fire Hall Referendum	1308	6687	19%
2008 By Election	614	6687	9%
2005 General Election	2150	6400	33%
2002 General Election	Not available	Not available	Not available
1999 General Election	2581	6005	43%
1996 General Election	2347	5889	40%
1995 General Election	1984	5510	36%

## ADVANCE VOTING

Election Bylaw 538, 2005 and Section 107 of the Local Government Act require at least 2 advance voting opportunities to be held for an election. One must be on the tenth day before General Voting Day and the other date is established by Bylaw. Bylaw 538 sets out that the Chief Election Officer is authorized to set the date and location of the second day advance voting. Both advance voting days are required to be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Advance voting opportunities were held on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 and Tuesday, October 11, in the Carr's Landing Room at Municipal Hall. Advance voting was attended by 720 voters over the two days compared to 923 in 2018.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY

The ward or neighbourhood constituency system in Lake Country requires different ballots for each ward. In order to ensure an accurate election is conducted, it is critical each elector receive the correct ballot. Election Officials are not permitted to assume the correct ward, nor are they permitted to allow the elector to assume they know the ward; they must confirm each elector's ward prior to issuing the ballot.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

In 2018 and 2022 Election Officials used a printed version of a spreadsheet to look up each elector's road and verify the corresponding ward. This registration method provided efficient processing times in both elections.

## POLLING STATIONS IN WARDS

Each year election staff receive general inquiries about polling stations being held in individual wards. Ward polling stations were used in the 1996 General Election and the 2015 Rail Trail Referendum; all other elections have been conducted with a single polling station on General Voting Date at GESS. Additional polling stations or additional advance voting opportunities require increased budget to account for labour, hall rentals, advertising, voting machine and food.

## MAIL BALLOTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministerial Orders were issued permitting by-elections during that time to provide mail ballot voting for all electors. The *Local Government Act* was subsequently amended to permit mail ballot voting for all electors, not just those who had challenges attending the voting place or would be away from the jurisdiction on General Voting Day. The District subsequently adopted an updated Mail Ballot Bylaw 1183, 2022 as per the LGA, which sets out procedures for mail ballot voting. The change in legislation prompted consideration of impacts on staff if there were to be a significant increase in mail ballots. Mail ballots may assist in increasing voter turnout although the process adds a significant amount of staff time to election proceedings. While a significant increase in mail ballots was not seen in 2022, impacts and timelines set out by bylaw should be considered prior to the next General Local Election.

Twenty-eight mail ballots were requested for the 2022 election and all except two were returned by the close of voting. Of the twenty-eight requested, twenty-one were picked up from the Municipal Hall and seven were delivered by mail. Ten mail ballots were sent out in 2018 and six were returned by the close of voting and twelve mailed and six returned in 2014.

It is not a requirement to track down unreturned mail ballots although in order to maintain a degree of control over mail ballots electors are requested to return unused mail ballots to the local government office.

## BUDGET

The following table sets out election costs from 2002 to 2018 for general elections only.

	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014	2018	2022
<b>Cost</b>	<b>9,113</b>	<b>9,251</b>	<b>12,769</b>	<b>18,025</b>	<b>16,473</b>	<b>21,377</b>	<b>20,327</b>
<b>Less SD</b>	-2,941	-2,350	-6,456	0	-5,491	-7,126	-4,065
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,171</b>	<b>6,901</b>	<b>6,313</b>	<b>18,025</b>	<b>10,982</b>	<b>14,251</b>	<b>16,262</b>
<b>Budget</b>	12,000	12,000	16,000	13,000	16,000	16,000	20,000

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT 23 COST SHARING AGREEMENT**

Where a trustee electoral area includes both all or part of a single municipality and all or part of a rural area, the board of education may enter into an agreement with the municipality or regional district to conduct all or part of a trustee election. For a trustee election conducted by a municipality, the board must reimburse the municipality for costs necessarily incurred by the municipality in conducting the election. The school board has cost sharing agreements with the District of Lake Country, District of Peachland and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO). Prior to 2014 each municipality had a different agreement and various cost sharing provisions. In 2014 agreements for all three parties were amended with the school board being responsible for 1/3 of all out of pocket election expenses. This provided consistency for all parties and simplified the invoicing process.

In 2022 the school board negotiated new contracts with each partner to more accurately reflect each parties' individual circumstances. The District of Lake Country entered into a cost sharing agreement where the school board is responsible for 1/5 of all election expenses regardless of candidates elected by acclamation. Cost sharing agreements are negotiated and entered into prior to each election.

**VOTING MACHINE**

Two voting machines were rented from Election Systems & Software Canada, the same company used since 2011. The use of voting machines provides a detailed account that can be reconciled with the ballot accounts and also allows results to be determined within a short time after closing the polls.

**ELECTION OFFICIALS**

Fifteen Election Officials were hired for the 2022 election in comparison to 21 for the 2018 election and 10 in the 2014 General Election. The majority of the Election Officials have previous experience in Lake Country elections and are valued for their knowledge and experience. Several of the new Election Officials with no previous Lake Country experience were a great introduction to a strong team that continues to support Lake Country elections. All of the Election Officials were meticulous in ensuring an accurate election was conducted and worked long and tiring days. Election Officials are paid \$16 per hour pursuant to District policy and are provided with all meals.

**VOTING PLACE EVALUATION FORM**

Eight Voting Place Evaluation Forms were completed compared to sixteen in 2014. Comments included: it was a positive experience, organized, efficient, friendly professional and well-informed staff and it was a pleasure to vote here. Two forms noted concern with the lack of information on candidates and the referendum and one comment noted the process was time consuming with no pre-registration.

**ADVERTISING**

In addition to the statutory advertising, election information was provided on the District website and via social media. A community wide Citizen's Bulletin mail-out was also produced which included information on candidates and the referendum. The Citizen's Bulletin was funded from Council contingency.

**SUMMARY**

It is presumed the low voter turnout was due to the number of acclaimed positions and no mayoral race. While line ups and wait times were not an issue during this election, the ward system in Lake Country will always require longer a registration process than in other municipalities. It is critical voters receive the correct ballot and that an accurate election is conducted. The process of using a printed spreadsheet to confirm each elector's ward and having the appropriate number of staff ensures a quick process.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services

## Attachment A - Compilation of ballot accounts

NUMBER OF BALLOTS GIVEN TO ELECTORS	1ST ADVANCE 2022-10-05	2ND ADVANCE 2022-10-11	GVD & Mail 2022-10-15	TOTAL
Carr's Landing & Oyama	67	64	222	353
Okanagan Centre	95	112	375	582
Winfield	184	202	711	1097
TOTAL Ballots given to electors	346	378	1308	2032
TOTAL Spoiled Ballots	4	0	7	11
<b>TOTAL BALLOTS GIVEN TO ELECTORS</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>MACHINE COUNT</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>2020</b>
2018 Compariosn	399	524	1868	2791

		1ST ADVANCE	2ND ADVANCE	GVD & MAIL 2022-10-15	SUM
<b>Carr's Landing &amp; Oyama</b>					
1	Number of ballots received for use	200	150	545	990
2	Valid Ballots	65	64	220	353
4	Spoiled ballots	2	0	2	4
5	<b>Number of ballots given to the electors (2+3+4)</b>	67	64	222	357
6	Unused ballots	133	86	323	633
8	<b>TOTAL (5+6+7) NOTE: No. 1 &amp; No. 8 must agree.</b>	200	150	765	1210
9	Number of Signatures in Poll book NO.2 & NO. 9 MUST AGREE	20	14	220	258
<b>Okanagan Centre</b>					
1	Number of ballots received for use	199	149	647	1090
2	Valid Ballots	94	112	375	589
4	Spoiled ballots	1	0	0	1
5	<b>Number of ballots given to the electors (2+3+4)</b>	95	112	375	590
6	Unused ballots	104	37	272	500
8	<b>TOTAL (5+6+7) NOTE: No. 1 &amp; No. 8 must agree.</b>	199	149	647	1090
9	Number of Signatures in Poll book NO.2 & NO. 9 MUST AGREE	94	112	375	589
<b>Winfield</b>					
1	Number of ballots received for use	250	300	1045	1690
2	Valid Ballots	183	202	706	1105
4	Spoiled ballots	1	0	5	8
5	<b>Number of ballots given to the electors (2+3+4)</b>	184	202	711	1113
6	Unused ballots	66	98	334	577
8	<b>TOTAL (5+6+7) NO. 1 &amp; NO. 8 MUST AGREE</b>	250	300	1045	1690
9	Number of Signatures in Poll book NO.2 & NO. 9 MUST AGREE	183	202	706	1105
<b>TOTAL</b>					
1	Number of ballots received for use	649	599	2237	3770
2	Valid Ballots	342	378	1301	2047
4	Spoiled ballots	4	0	7	13
5	<b>Number of ballots given to the electors (2+3+4)</b>	346	378	1308	2060
8	<b>TOTAL (5+6+7) NO. 1 &amp; NO. 8 MUST AGREE</b>	649	599	2237	3770
9	Number of Signatures in Poll book NO.2 & NO. 9 MUST AGREE	342	378	1301	2047

Note 1 - Ballot accounts indicate 1301 ballots given to electors on GVD and 1300 ballots deposited in machine. Poll book reconciliation confirms 1301 electors registered and received ballots. Error may be miscount of ballots provided at opening (many packages of 50 included 49 or 51 ballots), ballot not deposited in machine or ballot not recorded by machine.

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2022 General Local Election Summary.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 3, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Tanya Garost, Chief Administrative Officer - Nov 3, 2022 - 4:20 PM**