
Amendments to Bylaw No. 8491, The Campaign Disclosure and Spending Limits Bylaw, 2006

Recommendation

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that the appropriate amendments to *The Campaign Disclosure and Spending Limits Bylaw, 2006*, as outlined in this report, be brought forward for consideration.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive direction respecting three possible amendments to *The Campaign Disclosure and Spending Limits Bylaw, 2006* (the “Bylaw”).

Report Highlights

1. The equation used to determine campaign expense limits under the Bylaw requires an amendment in order to reflect the CPI adjustment as a percentage.
2. The CPI for any given month is only accessible roughly two months after the month in question. Therefore, a June CPI (as currently required) would only be available in late July of any year.
3. City Council resolved that the baseline CPI used for adjusting campaign expenses be October, 2012. We seek clarification around whether this date was intended to be used as a baseline in perpetuity or whether the previous election year meant to set the baseline for subsequent general elections.

Report

The Bylaw was amended on April 25, 2016 by City Council and incorporated numerous changes recommended by The Saskatoon Municipal Review Commission. Upon review, further amendments are required to the Bylaw to properly implement these changes.

1. Subsection 3(2) of the Bylaw contains an equation used to calculate maximum allowable campaign expenses. For the equation to express the CPI adjustment as a percentage, the equation requires correction:

Current Equation

$$\text{MCE} = \$0.75 + [\$0.75 \times (\text{IE} - \text{IB})] \times \text{P}$$

Corrected Equation

$$\text{MCE} = \$0.75 \times (\text{IE} \div \text{IB}) \times \text{P}$$

2. It has come to our attention that CPI for a particular month is released one month and 22 days after the beginning of said month. As worded, the Bylaw uses the difference between the June 1st CPI of an election year and the October 1, 2012 CPI to calculate the CPI adjustment. Because CPI for June is not released until July 22 of that year, this June 1st CPI date is problematic. We are suggesting that the Bylaw be amended to reference March 1st of an election year. This would mean the CPI would be accessible April 22nd of any given year and would allow for the calculation to be completed at that time.

3. Currently, the baseline CPI used for adjusting campaign expenses is October, 2012. Our Office would like to confirm whether City Council intended for this figure to be used in perpetuity or if City Council meant for the baseline CPI to be the October of the election prior for each election period. If the intent is for date to change every election period (ie. next period would be October 2016), then the Bylaw should be amended to read “CPI for the City for **the previous election year** up to October 1st”.

Depending on the Governance and Priorities Committee’s instructions, the Bylaw would be prepared for City Council’s consideration at its meeting on May 24, 2016.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

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